



*A brief history of ancient and modern  
India according to the syllabus ...*

Romesh Chunder Dutt

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A  
BRIEF HISTORY  
OF  
Ancient and Modern India

ACCORDING TO THE  
Syllabus prescribed by the Calcutta University

BY  
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INDIA' ETC.

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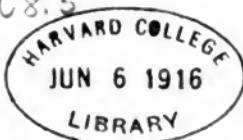
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**King Emperor Edward VII.**

## PREFACE

This edition of Mr. R. C. Dutt's "*Brief History of Ancient and Modern India*" has been thoroughly revised in accordance with the new syllabus prescribed by the Calcutta University. It has been brought up to date, and every care has been taken to make it useful and helpful to students preparing for the Matriculation Examination.

January, 1908.

*The Publishers,*

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# MODERN INDIA

Specially Prepared for

R. C. Dutt's Brief History  
of Ancient and Modern India

Deccan and Southern India. It is an elevated three-sided table



## CHAPTER I.

### ARYAN SETTLEMENTS IN THE PUNJAB.

B. C. 2000 to B. C. 1400.

**The Country.**—India is walled off from the rest of Asia by the Himalayan ranges in the north, and the chief parts of the Eastern and Western sides are washed by the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea. Its greatest length from north to south and greatest breadth from east to west are both nearly 2000 miles. The area of the country is, therefore, as large as that of all Europe less Russia. It presents all kinds of scenery—lofty mountains the pinnacles of which are buried beneath the perpetual snows of the arctic zones, burning deserts of the torrid zones, and rich plains fertilised by great rivers and yielding fruits and grains of the temperate climates. All varieties of products of nature from wild tropical forests to those of the polar regions are to be found here.

The country naturally divides itself into three well-defined regions. The Himalayan mountain regions, which shut her off from the rest of Asia, comprise the territories of Nepal, Bhutan and Kashmir. Ascending from the plains, these mountain regions present a scenery of lofty ridges rising behind each other, the steep sides being sometimes covered with dense jungles, and sometimes presenting only naked rocks with deep chasms and ravines at the bottom. The second region stretches southwards from the foot of the Himalayas to the Vindhya ranges, and comprises the plains of Northern India or Hindustan. This region, watered by majestic rivers like the Indus, the Ganges, and the Brahmaputra, is of matchless fertility, and, as we shall see, was the seat of great empires in the past. The whole of this region, if we leave out the desert tracts of Rajputana, presents a scene of one uniform richness. The third region stretches from the Vindhya southwards, and is called the Deccan and Southern India. It is an elevated three-sided table-

land bounded on the north by the Vindhya ranges, and on the east and west by the Eastern and Western Ghats which meet at a point near Cape Comorin.

**The Aborigines of India**—In very remote times, of which we have hardly any record at all, India was peopled by certain tribes with dark skins and flat noses. These we call for want of a better name, the Aborigines. They have not left us any written records. They were mostly uncivilised, and even the elements of agriculture were unknown to many of them. These aboriginal tribes are now represented by the

**Immigrations  
from the North-  
east and North-  
west.**

Kukis, Nagas, Mundas, Bhils, Santhals, and other kindred races. Where was the original abode of these remnants of a pre-historic world?

Written history they have none ; oral traditions are meagre. Their language tells us that they belonged to the Tibeto-Burman and Kolarian groups of mankind. In some very remote times the Tibeto-Burmans lived in Central Asia along with the ancestors of the Mongolians and the Chinese of our day. They, as well as the Kolarians, are said to have entered India by the north-eastern passage of the Himalayas. But there were other aboriginal tribes who could boast at least of the elements of civilization. They lived on the plains by the large rivers, clearing the jungles. Agriculture and cattle-rearing were not unknown to them. They wore ornaments of gold ; they fought with weapons of bronze and had fortified strong-holds ; and they had also some sort of government. These peoples survive in the Dravidians, who, though they now form the main population of Southern India, were, in the times we are speaking of, scattered over Northern India as well. Unlike the Tibeto-Burmans and Kolarians who had come before them, the Dravidians seem to have entered India from the north-west. It would seem that the Dravidians came into contact with the Kolarians in Central India, dispersed them eastwards and westwards, and then rushed in a mighty stream to the tablelands of the Deccan and Southern India, leaving Northern India to newer invaders—the civilized Aryans.

**The Aryans**—The Aryans are said to have originally lived somewhere in Central Asia. The sky, the sun, the moon, and such bright and striking phenomena of nature as the dawn, storms, and thunder, were the objects of their worship. They lived in joint families, several of which together formed a clan under a headman. A group of clans made up a tribe. Gradually they increased in numbers, and many of them left their primitive home. Those living on the western border migrated south-west into Europe, and settled in England, France, Germany, Italy, Greece, and other countries; and those living on the south-eastern border settled probably in western Turkistan, where they lived for some generations or centuries. In course of time they grew too numerous to live together, and so they separated once more. One section called the Iranian settled in Persia and the adjoining tracts, and became the ancestors of the modern Persians; another called the

**The Indo-Aryan.** Indo-Aryan settled in eastern Afghanistan and the Punjab, from whom are descended the modern Hindus of Northern India. Indian History may be said to begin from the settlement of the Indo-Aryans in the Punjab.

**The Vedas.**—But there is no work giving us a connected and systematic account of ancient India. Our earliest information regarding the Indo-Aryans is obtained from the Vedas, collections of hymns which, the Hindus believe, were revealed to the ancient Rishis.

**The Rig Veda.** The hymns of the Rig Veda preserve at this distant time a faithful picture of the civilization and manners, the arts and industries, and the wars and conquests of the ancient Hindus. The hymns are over one thousand in number, and addressed to nature-gods, such as Agni (fire), Indra (rain god), Varuna (sky), Sibita (sun), Maruts (storms).

It is a remarkable fact which European scholars have noted, that the ancient Hindus offered worship to all that was good and glorious and beneficent in nature, and they acknowledged

no wicked divinities and no harmful practices. In this way the hymns give evidence of a high moral character and a simple straightforwardness among the early Hindus of the Punjab.

Each householder could be his own priest in those days, and offered sacrifices, poured out libations, and uttered prayers, among the members of his own family. Some families, like those of the Vasishthas and the Visvamitras, early became celebrated for composing hymns and performing rites; and kings and wealthy men delighted to honour and reward them, and to employ them in celebrating rites. But humbler householders were their own priests, and offered their prayers to their gods in their own houses, and in their own simple manner. The prayers, too, were simple and earnest as a rule, and the gods were invoked to come and share the offerings as friends, and to bestow on the worshippers health, cattle, progeny, and victory in wars.

While worship was thus paid to the Powers of Nature, the ancient Hindus knew that those powers belonged on One Supreme God. "He is ONE, *although he bears the names of many gods.*"\*

In the Rig Veda frequent mention is made of the Punjab rivers collectively called Sapt Sindhu, the first being the Indus and the last Sarasvati. It is therefore clear that the first settlement of the Indo-Aryans was the tract between these two rivers.

The conquest of the whole of the Punjab was no easy task. **Wars with the  
Aborigines.** Like other parts of India, the Punjab was, in those days, inhabited by black aboriginal races, and these races offered a sturdy resistance to the advancing and conquering Aryans. Retreating before the more civilized Hindus in the open field, they still hung round Hindu settlements, in fastnesses and forests, harassed them in their communications, waylaid and robbed them at every opportunity, stole their cattle or plundered their villages. On the other hand, the civilized Hindus regarded the black barbarians with a

\*Rig Veda X. 83.3.

genuine hatred, thinned their ranks in battles with their cavalry which the barbarians regarded with a strange terror, and called them "godless enemies" or "men without a language."

Unable to face the Hindus in the open field, the black aborigines often took shelter in strong posts defended by streams and rivers. Thus, we are told, a renowned black warrior, Kuyava by name, had his settlement on the banks of four small streams, and he issued from these fastnesses to plunder Hindu villagers and steal their cattle. Krishna, too, another aboriginal warrior, concealed himself near the banks of the Ansumati river, it is said, with ten thousand followers, until the Hindus found him out and crushed him.

After centuries of continuous hostilities, the aborigines were completely subjugated or expelled, and the whole of the Punjab came under the undisputed sway of the Hindus.

Among the Hindus, Kutsa was a most powerful and renowned warrior, and a mighty destroyer of the black aborigines. We are told, apparently in the language of exaggeration, that he killed fifty thousand "black enemies." Still more renowned as a conqueror and a chief was Sudas, the celebrated patron of the Rishi Vasishtha. Sudas fought with the surrounding Hindu tribes, defeated ten Hindu kings who had combined against him, and beat back his enemies who had vainly tried to divert the course of the river Adina in order to destroy his forces. Visvamitra was the Rishi of the allied ten kings who were beaten.

The ancient Rishis committed the Rig Veda hymns to memory and handed them down from generation to generation. In later times other Vedas were compiled largely from the Rig Veda. Some of the Rig Veda hymns were chanted instead of being recited at sacrifices, and a collection of these hymns is called the Sama Veda. Prose formulas specially required for sacrificial purposes were separately collected with some of the Rig Veda hymns under the name of Yajur Veda. The Atharva Veda, too, is written in prose and verse, and consists of many Rig Veda

hymns, and of some peculiar hymns most of them being charms against evil influences.

Gradually a great mass of Vedic literature arose in India. Commentaries written in prose, explaining the Vedic hymns, and dealing with Vedic rituals, are known as *Brahmanas*. Treatises compiled for the use of those who took to forest life are called *Aranyakas*. And the thoughtful works known as the *Upanishads*, and containing sublime speculations on the Universal Soul, are to be found in these *Aranyakas*.

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## CHAPTER II.

### ARYAN SETTLEMENTS IN NORTHERN INDIA.

B. C. 1400 to B. C. 1000.

**The Aryans spread over the Gangetic Valley.**—The nation which had colonised the whole of the Punjab was not likely to remain inactive on the banks of the Sarasvati and the Sutlej, and enterprising bands of colonists soon crossed the Punjab rivers, and extended their conquests eastwards founding settlements as they went.

The most famous of the Aryan colonists from the Punjab were the Kurus, the Panchalas, the Kosalas, the Videhas and the Kasis. The Kurus established themselves on the upper course of the Ganges and had their capital in Hastinapur, north-east of the modern Delhi. To the south of them lived the Panchalas who had their capital at Kampilya, near the site of the modern Kanauj. The Kosalas founded their kingdom in the wide tract of the country to the east of the Ganges as far as the Gandak, and Ayodhya was their capital. Further east and beyond the Gandak River, the Videhas founded a powerful kingdom with Mithila as their capital, celebrated as a great seat of learning for many centuries to come. To the south of the Ganges, the Kasis established themselves with their capital at Benares, which still continues to be the most sacred city of the Hindus. Besides these, other kingdoms were established, such as Matsya, Surasena, Magadha and Saurashtra. Thus, a thousand years before Christ, the whole country north of the Vindhya was brought under the sway of the Hindus. We gather much valuable information about Hindu society of this period from the two great national epics—the Mahabharata and the Ramayana.

The Mahabharata has a great historical value, not as a true account of the incidents of the war which forms its subject, but as a picture of the manners and civilization of the period. We see in this venerable

## 8 ARYAN SETTLEMENTS IN THE NORTHERN INDIA.

epic how Hindus lived and fought, acted and felt, three thousand years ago. We find that young princes were early trained to arms, and that Kuru mothers and sisters and wives witnessed with pride the tournaments in which their sons and brothers and husbands distinguished themselves. We find that girls were married after they had attained their womanhood, and princesses, famed for their beauty, often selected their husbands from among the princes who came to seek their hands. We see how jealousies among neighbouring kings broke out into sanguinary wars, and how the bitterness of such feuds was restrained by the laws of honour and of chivalry. Victors in such wars performed the *Asvamedha* or the *Rajasuya* sacrifice, and all the princes of the Hindu world were invited to these grand imperial festivities.

Of the manners and customs of this period, and of the relations between the Kosalas and the Videhas, we have a valuable picture in the *Ramayana*. In this inestimable ancient epic we find how the Kosalas and the Videhas lived side by side in the fertile valley of the Ganges, and how the whole of Southern India was covered with forests, and inhabited by barbarian aborigines. We see how kings strove to secure the happiness and earn the good will of the people, and how the people were devotedly loyal to their kings. Young princes were trained in arms and also in all the learning of the age, and beautiful princesses attracted numbers of suitors, from whom the bravest and the most skilful in arms were selected. Sometimes the mutual jealousies of rival queens disturbed the even course of administration; and a favourite and strong-minded queen often secured the succession of her issue to the throne, and even the banishment of rival princes.

A comparison of the Epics with the Hymns of the Rig Veda shows at a glance how far the Gangetic Hindus had progressed in civilization, as compared with their sturdy forefathers who lived in the Punjab. With the increase of civilization, however, society became more luxurious, and the distinctions between the different classes of the Aryan Hindu population became fixed and hereditary.

Even among the ancient Hindus in the Punjab there were some families of priests who were known for their proficiency in composing hymns and performing sacrifices, and who, therefore, followed this profession from generation to generation. When, in later times, religious rites became more elaborate, such families increased in number and in influence, until they were regarded as distinct from the ordinary people, as a separate caste. They devoted their lifetime to the performance of religious rites, and they alone could perform them in all their increasing details, and thus they acquired a sanctity in the eyes of the ordinary people. It was thus that they formed the Brahman caste; and though the Brahmans continued to marry girls of other castes, they would not give their daughters in marriage to young men of lower castes.

Similar causes led to the formation of the Kshatriya caste. The kings of the ancient Hindus in the Punjab were little more than leaders of warriors, and did not separate themselves from the people. But later on, as the people progressed in civilization, their kings lived in august and pompous courts, and were completely separated from the common people. As the royal and military classes became more and more powerful, and as the people became more and more submissive and enervated, the two classes became distinct, once and for ever. Maidens from the warlike classes would not condescend to marry men from the ranks, and thus the royal and military classes formed the Kshatriya caste.

The body of the people—agriculturists, traders, and men belonging to different professions and industries, formed the Vaisya caste. And the aborigines of India, who had submitted to the Hindu conquerors and adopted their language and religion, were still held in contempt and were called Sudras.

It was thus that the caste system was formed in India. It was unknown to the Hindus when they first settled in the Punjab, but was developed in later times. It divided the compact body of the Aryan Hindus into three hereditary bodies—the priests, the soldiers, and the people.

## 10 ARYAN SETTLEMENTS IN THE NORTHERN INDIA.

Side by side with the caste system, there grew up another institution, viz., *Asrama*, which had special reference to the life of the Brahmans, Kshatriyas and Vaisyas. The ideal life of the Aryan Hindu was divided into four stages. The first was *brahmacharyya*, or the student life, which began with the investiture of the sacred thread when the student entered upon his studies with a preceptor to whom he had to render menial service. The second was *garhasthya*, or the house-holder's life, when he married and followed a course of family duties. After having reared a family he began the third stage of his life, viz., *bana-prastha*, or the life of a recluse in a forest, when he lived upon roots and fruits and spent his time in religious penances. The last was the life of a *Yati*, or religious mendicant who wandered from place to place living upon what was given him unasked. In this stage he strove to attain perfect purity, and sought eternal salvation by pious contemplation.

Schools of learning flourished in every Hindu State in the Epic Age; sublime speculations were made on the universal Soul; and astronomical observations were made and recorded. The constellations along the path of the moon were observed; and the Hindu months were named after these constellations, about 1200 B. C.

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## CHAPTER III.

### HINDU EXPANSION OVER INDIA.

B. C. 1000 to B. C. 320.

**Hindu expansion.**—We have seen how the Hindu Aryans after occupying the whole of the Punjab as far as the Sutlej and the Sarasvati, came further east, and founded powerful kingdoms in the Gangetic valley as far down as modern Benares and Tirhoot. And we shall now see how they spread themselves all over India from the Bay of Bengal to the Arabian Sea,—and as far as Ceylon and Cape Comorin to the South.

Magadha, or South Behar, was hardly within the pale of Hindu civilization when the war of the Mahabharata was fought. But shortly afterwards, this country received Hindu civilization, and became the most powerful kingdom in India. And from Magadha, Hindu colonists and conquerors marched further eastwards, and explored and colonized Bengal and Orissa.

Gujrat was early colonized by the Hindus; and the legends of Krishna would seem to indicate that the colonists came from the banks of the Jumna. At a later period, the Saurashtras of Gujrat became a powerful Hindu nation. Malwa, too, was early Hinduized, and the kings of Ujjayini were reckoned among the civilized Hindu powers.

The waves of Hindu colonization rolled further, and the Vindhya mountains were soon crossed. A great and powerful kingdom, that of the Andhras, was founded in the country between the Narbada and the Krishna rivers, and the capital of this southern empire was situated near the modern Amaraoti. Schools of law were founded in this young empire, and, in course of some centuries, the Andhras became the most powerful race in India.

Still further rolled the waves of Hindu colonization, and the country beyond the Krishna was soon Hinduized. The

ancient Dravidian people of this province received the Hindu religion and civilization, and three Hindu kingdoms—*viz.*, those of the Cholas, the Cheras, and the Pandyas—were founded between the Krishna river and Cape Comorin.

We have said that Hindu colonists came from the banks of the Jumna and colonized Gujerat at a very early period. It has been supposed that descendants of these colonists came from Gujerat to the extreme south of India by sea, and they naturally called their new kingdom Pandya, and its capital Mathura (Madura).

And, lastly, the Island of Ceylon was visited by Hindu merchants for its products, and gradually came to be known to the Hindus. In the 5th century B. C., Vijaya, the son of Sindavahu, king of Magadha, is said to have been exiled by his father for many acts of violence, and this prince came by sea to Ceylon, conquered the island, and founded a dynasty of kings.

We thus see that by the fourth century B. C., the whole of India, except desert and wild tracts, was completely Hinduized, and contained many powerful Hindu kingdoms. Among these, Magadha was the foremost in power and fame, and we know some facts of the history of this kingdom.

In the Mahabharata mention is made of a powerful chief, **Magadha** named Jarasandha, who was killed by the Empire. Pandavas. There is also a list of twenty-eight kings, who are said to have ruled in Magadha after Jarasandha; but the authenticity of this list is doubtful, and nothing is known of them except their names. After these twenty-eight kings, Sisunaga founded a new and famous dynasty about 600 B.C.

Fifth in descent from Sisunaga was Bimbisara, who reigned about the close of the sixth century B. C. It was during his reign that Gautama Buddha preached the Buddhist religion. It was during the reign of Bimbisara that Darius, king of Persia, conquered some tracts to the west of the Indus, and exacted a large annual tribute from these tracts.

Bimbisara was succeeded by his son, the powerful Ajatasatru, who ascended the throne early in the fifth century before Christ. Anga,\* or East Behar was already under the rule of Magadha; and Ajatasatru largely added to the extent of the kingdom by conquering Kosala and other countries to the west. A race of Turanians, called the Vajjis, had poured down through the Himalayas and settled in North Behar. The powerful Ajatasatru built Pataliputra or Patna to keep them in check. Four princes ruled after Ajatasatru, with the last of whom, Mahanandin, ended the Sisunaga dynasty, about 360 B.C.

Nanda and his eight sons succeeded, and ruled from 360 to 320 B.C. It was in the reign of the last king of the Nanda dynasty that Alexander the Great invaded India, defeated Porus in a pitched battle, and marched eastwards as far as the Sutlej. He then went southwards, conquering many tribes and taking many forts; and returned through Beluchistan to Babylon; while his admiral Nearchus sailed from the mouths of the Indus to the Persian Gulf. Chandragupta, a great leader whom the last of the Nanda kings had exiled, joined Alexander and lived for some time in his camp. But Alexander was soon disgusted with the haughty exile, and the latter had to fly. After the departure of Alexander, Chandragupta gathered round him the hardy warriors of the North-West, ascended the throne of Magadha and founded the Maurya dynasty about 320 B.C.

Chandragupta raised the Magadha Empire to the highest pitch of power and glory. The whole of Northern India, from East Behar to the Punjab, now owned the supremacy of Magadha, and the ancient races of whom we have spoken in the last chapter,—the Kurus, the Panchalas, the Kosalas, the Videhas, and the Kasis—all submitted to the rule of this young and vigorous race. Megasthenes, the ambassador of the Greek king Seleucus, lived at Pataliputra or Patna, the capital of Chandragupta, for five years, 317 to 312 B.C. and he bears

\* The Capital of Anga was Champa, which was situated near the modern Bhagalpur.

witness to the vigorous and enlightened administration, and the immense power of Chandragupta. Chandragupta had a standing army of 600,000 foot soldiers, 30,000 horse and 9,000 elephants, "whence may be formed some conjecture as to the vastness of his resources."

**Religious and Social Life**—We have stated in the preceding chapter that the Aryan Hindus divided themselves into three castes,—the Brahmans, the Kshatriyas and the Vaisyas; while the aborigines, who were subdued by the Aryans, formed the Sudra caste. The first three castes, *i. e.*, the entire Hindu population with the exception of the aborigines, learnt the Vedas, acquired religious knowledge, and performed those religious and domestic ceremonies which had been handed down from ancient times. These numerous ceremonies have been classified by Gautama under forty heads, twenty-one of which are Sacrifices, and the remaining nineteen are merely Domestic Ceremonies. A few of these forty sacraments of the Hindus deserve mention.

Young men after completing their education returned to their homes and lighted the sacrificial fire, and the ceremony which accompanied this rite was the first Sacrifice. It marked their first entrance into the state of householders. From this period they kept up the sacrificial fire in their homes, and performed daily sacrifices, offering libations of milk, morning and evening, to the fire. Sacrifices were also performed at the new and full moon, and at the harvest time; the Lakshmi Puja and the Pausha Parvan of modern times are survivals of the ancient harvest sacrifices.

But probably the most important Sacrifice was the *Sraddha*, which is as well known to the modern Hindus as it was to their forefathers. It consisted in periodically offering cakes and water to the departed fathers, and in the feeding of Brahmans, "endowed with learning, moral character and correct conduct, as representatives of the fathers."\*

\* *Asvalayana.*

More interesting still are the Domestic Ceremonies, some of which are still practised by the modern Hindus. *Annaprashana* is universally practised when the child first takes solid food ; and *Upanayana* or initiation into the student's life, is observed by the Brahmans.

*Marriage* followed the completion of studies in the olden days ; the student's austere life was abandoned, and the newly married man entered on the duties of a householder. And lastly *Cremation* of the dead was performed by the ancient Hindus, as it is practised to this day.

The lengthy works called the *Brahmanas* began to be   
 Science and gradually replaced by concise and practical   
 Learning. treatises in the form of *Sutras* or aphorisms. The religious and social observances of which we have spoken above, are all prescribed in Sutra works.

Thus the rules for the performance of Sacrifices were condensed in the *Srauta Sutras*, those of Domestic Rites and Festivals in the *Grihya Sutras*, and Civil and Criminal Laws in the *Dharma Sutras*. And these three classes of Sutras are collectively known as *Kalpa Sutras*. The laws of property and inheritance as laid down in the Dharma Sutras still form the basis of the Hindu Law as it is administered to-day. The *Manava Dharma Sastra*, or the Institutes of Manu is a compilation of the ancient laws and customs of the country. Like the other codes, it was at first written in prose ; but the original work is lost, and the one that we have is in verse and is said to have been compiled about the commencement of the Christian era.

A great advance was made in Geometry which is believed to have been borrowed by Greece from India. This science originated in India from the Sutra rules for the construction of altars. These altars were of various shapes and sizes, and the rules of sacrifices often required that the shape of the altar should be changed without altering the size, or that the size should be increased without altering the shape. Thus "squares had to be found which would be equal to two or more given

squares or equal to the difference of two given squares ; oblongs had to be turned into squares and squares into oblongs ; triangles had to be constructed equal to given squares or oblongs ; and so on. The last task, and not the least, was that of finding a circle, the area of which might equal as closely as possible, that of a given square.”\*

A similar advance was made in Astronomy, and the position of the stars was carefully observed in order to fix the time for sacrifices.

In the science of Grammar a still greater success was achieved, and Panini is perhaps the greatest Grammarian that the world has ever known. The great discovery has been made in Europe in the last century that the tens of thousands of words in the Aryan languages can be resolved to a few hundreds of roots. This discovery, so far as the Sanskrit is concerned, was made in India before the time of Panini ; and the great grammarian resolves the Sanskrit language of his time to its simple elements.

All these sciences, the *Kalpa Sutras*, Grammar, Astronomy &c. are known as the *six Vedangas* ; but it was in Philosophy that Hindu thinkers achieved the most distinguished results. There are *six Darsanas* or schools of Hindu Philosophy, and the principles of all these schools are preserved to us in the *Sutra* form. The *Sankhya* philosophy of Kapila is considered to be the first system of mental philosophy in the world. Kapila considered God as beyond the range of human knowledge ; and a new system of philosophy, the *Yoga*, was founded by Patanjali to remove this want. The *Yoga* philosophy recognized the Deity ; but prescribed numerous rites for the attainment of supernatural powers which the *Yogis* of India still pretend to practise.

Gautama was the founder of the *Nyaya*, probably the first system of Logic in the world ; and Gautama’s syllogism is not unlike the syllogism of Aristotle. He was followed by Kanada, who proclaimed the atomic theory in his system of philosophy known as the *Vaisesika*.

\* Dr. Thibaut, *Journal, Asiatic Society, Bengal*, 1875.

Two orthodox schools of philosophy were subsequently started. Jaimini insisted, in his *Purva Mimansa*, on the necessity of performing those sacrifices and Vedic rites which were prescribed of old ; and Badarayana Vyasa, in his *Vedanta* philosophy, proclaimed once more his faith in the Supreme Being, the Universal Soul of the Upanishads.

**Gautama Buddha.**—But these six Vedangas and six Darsanas are less known to the world at large than the great religious and ethical revolution embodied in Buddhism, which shook India and the whole continent of Asia. Political and social causes had prepared India for such a revolution, and indeed demanded a Reformer. Non-Aryans in Magadha and in the whole of India had now adopted Aryan customs, languages, and civilization, and demanded admission within the pale of Aryan religious learning and religious rites. A great Leveller was required to break down that exclusiveness with which Aryan castes still guarded their religious doctrines from others who were now politically and numerically more powerful than the Aryans ; and that Leveller arose in Gautama Buddha. His doctrines, known as Buddhism, are mainly Hindu doctrines in another form, but preached and proclaimed to all without distinction of caste or colour.

Towards the east of the ancient Kosala kingdom, the Sakya clan had a small semi-independent kingdom with their capital at Kapilavastu on the banks of the Rohini river. The King Suddhodana was of the Gautama family, and his son, the future Buddha, was born in 557 B. C. At the age of twenty he was married to Yasadhara, and ten years after this had a son. The town of Kapilavastu resounded with notes of joy at the birth of this future heir to the throne. Gautama, however, was of a contemplative turn of mind ; he constantly pondered on human sufferings and sins, and wished to discover a remedy for these evils. These thoughts filled his heart ; his wealth, his royal position, his beloved wife, and his newborn babe, could not restrain him from pursuing the great mission of his life ; and, shortly after the birth of his child he left his home in secret, to

be a student and an earnest inquirer after the great truth he sought.

Gautama repaired to Rajagriha, the capital of Magadha, lived with a Brahman ascetic, and learnt all that Hindu philosophy could teach, but in vain. He then went to the vicinity of Gaya, turned an ascetic himself, and for six years gave himself up to the severest penances and mortification ; but such penances suggested to him no remedy. At last he left off his penances and wandered towards the Niranjana river, and set down under the famous Bodhi-tree of Gaya in long contemplation. That contemplation suggested to Gautama, what neither philosophy nor penances had taught, that self culture, leading to a holy and calm and peaceful life, was the only remedy for the sins and woes to which humanity was subject. Gautama rejected Vedic rites and ceremonials as fruitless ; rejected penances as unworthy and unprofitable ; and condemned a life of pleasure and sensuality as hurtful. There was a "middle path," he said, between these extremes, and that was to seek and attain by continuous self-culture "a consummate, perfect and pure life of holiness."\*

Gautama went to Benares and proclaimed this doctrine in 522 B. C., and thence went to Rajagriha, the capital of Magadha, and soon had a large number of followers. Bimbisara, the king of Magadha, honoured him, and the people admired him and heard him, as he with his followers begged his food from door to door, and proclaimed the truth he had discovered. His brotherhood of Bhikshus or monks increased in number year by year ; women joined the Order and formed a sisterhood of Bhikshunis or nuns ; and Gautama's step-mother and wife were among the first nuns. Besides those who thus joined the Order, there were hundreds of families in Magadha and Vaisali, Kosala and Kasi, who became lay-disciples, *i. e.*, who received the tenets of Gautama Buddha without leaving their homes or turning ascetics. And when Gautama died in the year 477 B. C., at the advanced age of eighty, and after

\* *Mahabхагга.* I, II, 1.

preaching his religion for no less than forty-five years, that religion had already taken a hold on the hearts and affections of the poor and the lowly. For Gautama's religion was essentially a religion of equality and of love ; caste distinctions were abolished within the Holy Order ; the humblest born were equal to the proudest Brahmans and princes after they had turned Bhikshus and Bhikshunis. And even among the lay-disciples, who continued to recognize caste, that institution lost its force. †

We have already explained in a few words the idea which **Buddhism and Hinduism.** was embodied in the religion founded by Gautama Buddha. It was in some respects a product of Hinduism, and in other respects a departure from that religion.

The Buddhist Holy Order or Monastic System grew out of the life of Bhikshus or ascetics, which Hinduism recognized and respected. The Buddhist doctrine of *Karma*, grew out of the Hindu belief in the transmigration of souls. The Buddhist doctrine of *Nirvana*, grew out of the Hindu idea of *Mukti* or Salvation attainable by knowledge and culture. And Hindu gods—Brahma, Indra, &c.—found a place in the popular beliefs of the Buddhists.

But in other respects, Buddhism differed from Hinduism. The Vedic rites, which were attended with the slaughter of animals, were proclaimed to be unprofitable and hurtful. Penances and mortifications, sanctioned and respected by Hinduism, were also declared to be useless and hurtful. And the distinctions of caste were not recognized among men after they had entered the Holy Order.

We have said before that Buddhism was essentially a system of self-culture, leading to a holy life. It was laid down that life was suffering ; that the thirst for life was the cause of suffering ;

† Hindu readers will obtain some idea of Buddhist institution by comparing them with Vaishnavism. Vaishnavas, who relinquish their homes and families, answer to Buddhist Bhikshus ; while Grihasta Vaishnavas, recognizing caste, answer to Buddhist lay-disciples.

that the cessation of this thirst was the cessation of suffering and this cessation could be obtained by following the "middle path," or the "eightfold path." This eightfold path consisted in correct beliefs, aspiration, speech and action, in pure living and effort, mindfulness and meditation. The eightfold path was, in fact, a strict system of self-culture leading to *Nirvana*, or a holy, calm and tranquil life, which is the Buddhist's salvation.

But if that salvation was not attained in this life, the deeds of this life, *Karma*, led to future births. Buddhists believe in transmigration, and hold that their present state is determined by their Karma in a previous birth, and that repeated births will thus take place until Nirvana is attained.

Buddhism recognizes the Hindu deities, who are like men subject to re-births according to their Karma, until they attain Nirvana. Nirvana or a Sinless Life, is the Buddhist's heaven and salvation,—a salvation which each man can work out for himself, and by himself in this world and during this life. Such sinless life is its own reward ; the Buddhist seeks for no higher heaven and no greater reward.

The excellence of Buddhism consists in its inestimable ethics, and in its lofty purity. It breathes a spirit of benevolence and of forgiveness, of charity and of love. It seeks to embrace the whole human kind with an equal love, without distinction. Mankind responded to the appeal ; and between the fifth and the tenth centuries after Christ, probably one-half of the human race were Buddhists.

Not many centuries after the death of Buddha, the people of Ceylon, whither Buddhism had spread, recorded in Pali his teachings in their present form. The scriptures are collectively called the *Tri-pitaka* or Three Baskets. The first professes to **Buddhist Sacred Literature.** record the sayings of Buddha himself ; the second contains rules for the conduct of monks and nuns ; and the third comprises Buddhist Philosophy. This is the property of the Southern Buddhists. The Northern

Buddhists of Kashmir, Nepal, Tibet, China and Japan have their sacred literature in a different form.

**Mahavira**—About the same time with Buddhism there arose another non-Brahmanical religion, *viz.* Jainism. Its founder, Mahavira, was, like the great Buddha, a scion of a princely house. Very little is known of the personal history of Mahavira. He belonged to the clan of the Jnatrika Kshatriyas, and his mother is said to have been the sister of the king of Vaisali. While still very young he retired from the world and became a monk, and after years of self-mortification he became a Jina or Tirthakara *i. e.*, a saint. During the last 30 years of his life he organized his order of ascetics, who were called Nirgranthas. Mahavira died at Papa. After Mahavira's death his sect came to be known as Jainas from their worship of Jinas, of whom Mahavira was one. The Jinas, according to them, appear in this world, from age to age, to reclaim it from sin and save mankind. The Jainas agree with the Buddhists in refraining from the slaughter of animals, and in praising retirement from the world. Like the Buddhists they believe in *Karma*, in *Transmigration* and in *Nirvana* which can be attained by self-culture, self-control, truth, uprightness, and kindness. The Jainas of India number about a quarter of a million at the present time, and most of them belong to the Bombay Presidency.

## CHAPTER IV.

### ASCENDENCY OF MAGADHA.

B. C. 320 to A. D. 500.

**Chandragupta, and Greek Accounts of India.** The whole of Northern India was for the first time united under one rule by Chandragupta, whose reign therefore begins a new epoch in the history of India.

We have said that Megasthenes lived in India for five years, and he has left a very valuable account of the country as he saw it. The Magadhas were the most powerful race in India, and ruled from the Punjab to East Behar. Further to the east, Bengal and Orissa were parcelled out into different kingdoms. The sea-coast was called Kalinga, and the king of Kalinga had his capital at Pathalis, and had 60,000 foot soldiers, 1,000 horse and 700 elephants. A large island in the Ganges was inhabited by the Madhya Kalingas, and beyond them lived other powerful tribes.

To the south, the Andhras had already founded a powerful empire, extending from the Narbada southwards, and Megasthenes says they had thirty walled towns and numerous villages.

To the west, Rajputana was still inhabited by wild tribes; while in Gujerat the Saurashtras were a powerful race, and their capital on the sea-coast was a great emporium of maritime trade. They had 150,000 infantry, 5,000 horse and 1600 elephants.

The island of Ceylon was not unknown to Megasthenes. He says, the island was famed for its gold and its pearl fisheries, and was also known for its large breed of elephants. The island was called Tamraparni, or the 'copper-leaved.'

Megasthenes also gives us much valuable information on the system of administration which prevailed in his time. The Municipal Officers of the king were divided into six bodies

which had separate duties assigned to them. The first body supervised industries and arts ; the second looked after foreigners and travellers ; the third inquired into births and deaths and levied taxes ; the fourth superintended trade and commerce ; the fifth supervised manufactures and the their sale ; and the sixth levied taxes on sale transactions. Similarly the Military Officers of the king were divided into six bodies, who looked after the six divisions of the army, *viz.*, the Fleet, the Bullock-trains used for carrying engines, the Infantry, the Cavalry, the Chariots and the elephants. And lastly, the Provincial Officers of the king had their duties to perform : they superintended agriculture, irrigation, and forests ; surveyed lands and inspected the sluices of irrigation canals ; encouraged and rewarded huntsmen ; collected taxes, superintended village industries, and constructed roads.

Megasthenes speaks of the prosperous condition of the agriculture of the Hindus and their two annual harvests, of the excellence of their arts and workmanship in gold, precious stones and jewels, of their simple habits, their gorgeous religious celebrations, and their devotion to learning. He found the people divided into seven classes, which can be identified with the four Hindu castes. His philosophers and councillors were the Brahmans and Kshatriyas ; and his husbandmen, shepherds and artisans were the Vaisyas and Sudras.

And lastly, Megasthenes pays a well deserved compliment to the Hindus for their natural simplicity, rectitude and truthfulness : "They live happily enough, being simple in their manners and frugal. They never drink wine, except at sacrifices. Their beverage is a liquor prepared from rice instead of barley ; and their food is principally a rice pottage. The simplicity of their laws and their contracts is proved by the fact that they seldom go to law. They have no suits about pledges and deposits, nor do they require either seals or witnesses, but make their depositists and confide in each other. Their houses and property they generally leave unguarded.

These things indicate that they possess sober sense, \* \* \* Truth and virtue they hold alike in esteem."

**Asoka the Great.**—Chandragupta ruled for about twenty-five years, and his son who succeeded him ruled for another twenty-five years. Chandragupta's grandson, Asoka the Great, then ascended the throne about 270 B. C. His great empire extended from the Bay of Bengal to the Punjab, and from the Himalayas to the Vindhya Mountains. His administration was wise and far-reaching, but his fame rests more on his religious fervour and earnestness, which led him to adopt Buddhism as the state religion of India, and to proclaim that religion in and even beyond the limits of India. "If a man's fame can be measured by the number of hearts who revere his memory, by the number of lips who have mentioned and still mention him with honour, Asoka is more famous than Charlemagne or Cæsar."\* For the name of Asoka is honoured from the Volga to Japan and from Siberia to Ceylon.

Fortunately for us, Asoka has left a record of his acts engraved on rocks, pillars and caves throughout his vast empire. These are distributed in different parts of the country. They can be found on the Indus and the Jumna, in Gujrat and in Mysore, in Madras, in Orissa and in the Napal Tarai. They not only testify to the wide extent of his empire but give us some valuable account of his administration.

Although at the time of Asoka's accession his empire was vast, he was ambitious of making further conquests. In the ninth year of his reign Asoka invaded and conquered Kalinga, and thus brought Bengal and Orissa into closer connexion with Magadha and Northern India. It was the spectacle of this war of annexation, and the sanguinary acts which accompanied it, that left a lasting impression on the mind of the benevolent emperor, and led him to embrace the Buddhist religion.

\*Koppen.

Five rocks have been discovered in five different parts of India with the same series of fourteen edicts inscribed on them. Their substance is given below :—

The first prohibited the slaughter of animals; the second provided medical aid for men and animals; the third enjoined a quinquennial religious celebration; the fourth made an announcement of religious grace; the fifth appointed ministers of religion and missionaries; the sixth appointed moral instructors for the people; the seventh proclaimed universal religious toleration; the eighth recommended pious enjoyments; the ninth insisted on the merit of imparting religious instruction; the tenth extolled true heroism and glory founded on spreading religion; the eleventh declared the imparting of religious instruction as the best of all kinds of charity; the twelfth proclaimed the principle of universal toleration] and moral persuasion as the best means of converting unbelievers; the thirteenth mentioned the conquest of Kalinga and the names of five Greek Kings to whose kingdoms Buddhist missionaries were sent; and the fourteenth summed up the foregoing with some remarks on the engraving of the edicts.

Pillars also have been found with edicts inscribed on them. Their substance is given below :—

The first directed the ministers of religion to work with zeal; the second explained religion to be mercy, charity, truth and purity; the third inculcated self-questioning and the avoidance of sins; the fourth entrusted the religious instruction of the people to a class of officers called Rajukas; the fifth prohibited the slaughter of various animals; the sixth proclaimed his good will to the people and hoped for the conversion of all sects; the seventh declared that the edicts would lead men to the right path; and the eighth recounted his works of public utility and his measures for the religious advancement of the people, and enjoined their conversion by moral persuasion.

It will thus appear that the edicts were published mainly for the moral and religious advancement of the people; but

nevertheless, we can glean from them some facts relating to Asoka's political acts and administration which show what a good and great king he was.

Asoka had no worthy successors. Six princes reigned after him within a period of about 40 years, and then the Maurya Dynasty, which had been founded by Asoka's grandfather Chandragupta in 320 B. C., ended in 183 B. C. Two dynasties followed, the Sunga and the Kanya, occupying the throne from 183 to 26 B. C., after which Magadha was conquered by the powerful Andhras, who had founded a great kingdom in the Deccan, and now became masters of India.

**Andhras of Magadha.**—The powerful Andhras ruled for four centuries and a half, and their dominions extended to the west as far as the Arabian sea. The power of the house reached its zenith under Satakarni I and his successors, who ruled in the first century after Christ. But the distant province of Saurashtra was lost in the same century, until it was reconquered by Gautamiputra II in the third century. The dynasty declined, however, from the fourth century, and came to an end in 433 A. D.

**Guptas of Kanouj.**—A great dynasty of kings, the Guptas of Kanouj, became supreme in India from the fourth century after Christ. The origin of the Guptas is lost in obscurity, but it appears that as the power of the Andhras of Magadha declined, the Guptas of Kanouj rose.

Of the first two kings, Maharaja Gupta and Ghatotkacha, we know very little. The third king Chandragupta I., assumed the title of Vikramaditya. His son and successor Samudragupta ruled towards the close of the fourth century, and has left an inscription which informs us that he conquered the kings of Kanchi (Conjeveram) and Kerala (Travancore) in Southern India; that he exterminated the kings of Northern India; and that the kings of Bengal and Assam, Nepal, Persia, and Ceylon obeyed his orders or sent him tribute.

Samudragupta's son Chandragupta II., assumed the title of Vikramaditya. His son and successor was Kumaragupta, who

was in turn succeeded by his son Skandagupta, another powerful king, who revived the memories of his great-grandfather by his conquests. He beat back the Huns who were then pouring into India, and he boasts in an inscription, that his fame was acknowledged even by his enemies "in the countries of the Mlechchas." The Mlechchas, however, had their revenge; and Toramana, a Hun, wrested Eastern Malwa from the Guptas in 466 A.D., shortly after Skandagupta's death. Toramana's son the redoubtable Mihirakula, began his career of conquest in 515 A.D., and the destruction of the Guptas was complete. It is necessary to give a brief account now of these foreign invaders.

From the second century before Christ to the sixth century after Christ,—i. e. from the time of the successors of Asoka the Great to the rise of Vikramaditya the Great,—Western India was the source of continuous foreign invasions. The invaders were (1) the Indo-Greeks, (2) the Indo-Parthians, (3) the Kushans, (4) the Shah kings, and (5) the Huns.

**Indo-Greeks.** When the power of the successors of Alexander declined, the Bactrians or Indo-Greeks established an independent kingdom on the frontiers of India. They frequently invaded the Punjab and Sindh, and the whole of the Indian borderland was ruled by a large number of Greek Princes. The most famous among them was Minander who issued from Kabul in 155 B.C. to conquer Western India. He conquered Sindh and the Katiawar Peninsula, and penetrated as far as Patna. Pushyamitra, the founder of the Sunga Dynasty in Magadha, compelled the Greek king to retire, and Minander's conquests in India disappeared in a few years. And the Bactrian kingdom itself was extinguished shortly after, between 140 and 130 B.C., by fresh invaders.

**Indo-Parthians.** The Indo-Parthians then became powerful in the Western frontier of India, and their first king ruled in Kabul and the Punjab about 120 B.C. One of his successors was Gondophares, and his name is connected by Christian tradition with St. Thomas. It is said that the Christian saint came to the court of Gondophares, and then went to

Southern India; and the shrine of San Thomé near Madras was named after him. In the first century after Christ the Indo-Parthians were driven from the Punjab by new invaders.

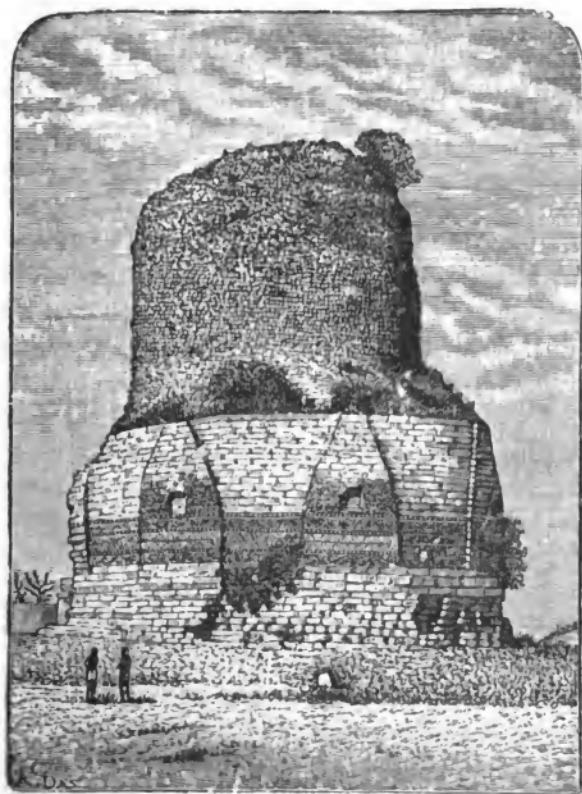
**Kushans.** The Kushan tribe of the Yu-chi race became powerful under Kadphises I about 45 A.D., and he conquered Kabul and Kashmir. His successor Kadphises II extended his conquests, and was succeeded by the celebrated king Kanishka. He conquered Kashgar, Yarkand, and Khotan in the north, and his Indian empire extended to the Vindhya mountains in the south. It is believed that he founded the Saka Era which runs from 78 A.D. He was a zealous Buddhist, and held a council to settle the scriptures of the Northern Buddhists, as the Council of Asoka the Great had settled the scriptures of the southern Buddhists. After the death of Kanishka, Buddhism was supplanted by Hinduism in Kashmir, and his great empire was broken into fragments.

**Shah Kings.** Gujrat, which was a part of Kanishka's empire, became independent after his death, and a race of king known as Kshatrapas, Satraps, or the Shah kings, ruled from about 125 to 388 A.D. Rudra Daman was a powerful king of this dynasty, and made peace with the Andhras of Magadha.

**Huns.** Last came the White Huns who belonged to the same race that convulsed Asia and Europe under the famous king Attila. In India, the White Huns under Toramana conquered Malwa from the Gupta king in 466 A.D., as we have said before. And his son, Mihirakula, completed the destruction of the Gupta empire in the sixth century. The tide of foreign invasions was at last checked by Vikramaditya the Great, as we shall see in the next chapter.

To know the history of India, from the time of Asoka the Great to the time of Vikramaditya the Great, we must remember the names of the five dynasties who ruled in the continent of India,—viz., the Mauryas, the Sungas, the Kanvas, the Andhras, and the Guptas. And we must also remember the five principal races which invaded and ruled in Western India,—viz the Indo-Greeks the Indo-Parthians, the Kushans, the Shah Kings, and the Huns.

**Architecture, Sculpture and Painting.**—The Arts received a great development in the Buddhist Age. Nagnajit composed a work on architecture, sculpture and painting, and the first specimens of these arts, which are now to be found in India, belong to the Buddhist Age.



SVARNATH TOPE.

We have alluded to the stone pillars, on which Asoka inscribed his edicts in several parts of India, and later kings continued to erect such pillars. Buddhist Stupas or topes were also constructed in holy spots; the Stupas of Sanchi in Bhopal are the most famous, and the Stupa of Svarnath, near Benares, has been seen by many Hindus who have

visited that holy city. The rails round these Stupas were also of stone, and were most elaborately and beautifully carved ; and the best specimens of Hindu sculpture are to be found on these rails. "Some animals," says Dr. Fergusson, "such as elephants, deer and monkeys, are better represented there than in any sculptures known in any part of the world ; so too are some trees ; and the architectural details are cut with an elegance and precision which are very admirable. The human figures, too, though very different from our standard of beauty and grace, are truthful to nature, and, where grouped together, combine to express the action intended with singular felicity. For an honest, purpose-like pre-Raphaelite kind of art, there is probably nothing much better to be found anywhere."

The Chaityas, or churches of the Buddhists, were remarkable edifices, as they were not built and constructed with pieces of stone, but were excavated in mountains and rocks. They have, therefore, no exterior except the frontage, and the skill of the architect was displayed in the beauty and the arrangement of the interior. The most remarkable Chaitya in India is at Karli, on the way from Bombay to Puna. It measures 126 feet by 46 feet, and the ornamented pillars inside are arranged very much as in Christian churches.

Viharas or monasteries were also excavated in rocks, and the Ajanta Viharas, which were seen by Houen Tsang, still exist. There is generally a hall in the centre, with pillars and aisles all round, and behind these are solitary cells for monks. Some of the Ajanta Viharas have their walls covered with fresco painting representing scenes from the life of Buddha or from the legends of saints. The figures in the painting are natural and elegant, the human faces are mild and pleasant, and the female figures have a softness and a mild grace which mark them as peculiarly Indian.

The science of Medicine made much progress in the Buddhist Age ; and Charaka and Susruta are the brightest names in Hindu medicine.

Buddhism declined after the fifth century A. D., and Buddhist art, too, has few notable specimens after this date.

**Fa Hian's account of India.**—The Chinese pilgrim Fa Hian visited India in the beginning of the fifth century after Christ, when the glorious reign of Samudragupta had come to a close. He has left us a fairly comprehensive account of the people, their arts, their learning, and their civilisation. He speaks thus of Northern India, extending from Mathura to Behar, which was then known as Madhyadesa : "The people are well off, without poll-tax or official restrictions ; only those who till the royal lands return a portion of the profit of the land. If they desire to go, they go ; if they like to stop, they stop. The kings govern without corporal punishment. Criminals are fined according to circumstances, lightly or heavily. Even in cases of repeated rebellion, they only cut off the right hand. The king's personal attendants who guard him on the right and left have fixed salaries. Throughout the country the people kill no living thing, nor drink wine, nor do they eat garlic or onions, with the exception of Chandalas only."

Fa Hian travelled through Mathura, Kanouj, and Kosala, and came to Pataliputra, or Patna, where the last Andhra kings were still holding a feeble sway amidst the ruins of Asoka's magnificent palaces. "The walls, door-ways and the sculptured designs," says the astonished pilgrim, "are no human work. The ruins still exist." The traveller then visited Rajagriha, Gaya, Benares, and Champa (near the modern Bhagalpur), and then came to Tamralipti or Tumlook, then a great seaport near the mouths of the Ganges. After a stay of two years in this seaport, Fa Hian shipped himself on board a great merchant vessel, and went to Ceylon. There he remained for two years, and then left in another merchant vessel with a crew of 200 men for his native country.

A great tempest arose in the way, but gradually abated, and after a voyage of 90 days, the vessel reached Yepoti (Java), where according to Fa Hian, Brahmans and Hinduism flourished at the time. Thence Fa Hian embarked in another merchant vessel with a crew of 200 men and after a voyage of 82 days reached the southern coast of China.

## CHAPTER V.

### UJJAYINI AND KANOUJ : RISE OF THE RAJPUTS : THE MINOR KINGDOMS.

A. D. 500 to A. D. 1200.

**Vikramaditya the Great**—We saw in the last chapter that, during the fourth and fifth centuries of the Christian Era, India was the scene of foreign invasions, and the Western Provinces were desolated by the Huns and other Turanian tribes known to the Hindus as the Sakas. At last a great defender arose to check the foreign invaders, and to give India some repose. Vikramaditya the Great, who has been identified with king Yasodharman of Malwa, allied himself with Baladitya king of Magadha, and defeated the Hun Mihirakula in 528 A.D. in a great battle. And having thus repelled the foreign invaders, he consolidated the whole of Northern India under his powerful rule, and encouraged arts, literature, and science, in which great results were now achieved. India was virtually free from great foreign invasions for nearly five centuries, from the defeat of the Hun Mihirakula to the time of Sabatagin and Mahmud of Ghazni.

So great was the power of Vikramaditya, that when the throne of Kashmir fell vacant by the death of Hiranya, the Emperor of Ujjayini placed his own friend and courtier, Matrigupta, on the throne of that distant region; and Matrigupta, ruled in Kashmir as long as Vikramaditya ruled in Ujjayini.

The Malavas had an old Era of their own which they reckoned from the date of their tribal constitution in 56 B.C. And when Vikramaditya the Great became the supreme ruler in Ujjayini and in Northern India in the sixth century A.D., this ancient Era came to be known as Vikramaditya's Era. To the present day the *Samvat Era* is known as Vikramaditya's Era, and this has often led to the erroneous supposition that the great Emperor ruled in 56 B.C. We know, however, that

the great emperor, the patron of the poet Kalidasa, and the foe of the Huns, lived in the sixth century A. D., although other kings, also bearing title of Vikramaditya, ruled in preceding centuries.

In literature the history of the Vikramadityan Age opens Revival in Literature. with the brilliant name of Kalidasa. His creations of fancy seem to live and move among us; his matchless melody of verse never ceases to please; and his inexhaustible and apt similes are as natural and as profuse as the wild flowers of an Indian Jungle, and quite as surprising and sweet.

Kalidasa's Sakuntala is the best Indian drama; his Raghuvansha and Kumara Sumbhava are the best narrative poems; and his Meghaduta is the sweetest descriptive poem in Sanskrit. His name stands high in the rolls of Hindu poets, second only to the authors of the immortal Mahabharata and Ramayana.

Shortly after Kalidasa lived Bharavi, also in the sixth century. His Kiratarjuniyam lacks the creative fancy and the sweetness of Kalidasa's composition, but is vigorous and spirited.

The works of great astronomers like Parasara and Garga were handed down from ancient times; but a new astronomer, Aryabhatta, rose in the fifth century after Christ. He was born in Pataliputra in 476 A. D., and maintained the theory of the revolution of the earth on its own axis, and also spoke of the solar zodiac which the Hindus borrowed from the Greeks. He was followed by Varahamihira, one of the "nine gems" of Vikramaditya's Court, who recast the five older *Siddhantas*, and also composed a great original astronomical work. He was succeeded by the astronomer Brahmagupta who wrote in 628 A. D.

Vikramaditya the Great was succeeded by Siladitya I., about 550. Siladitya was favourably inclined towards Vikramaditya's successors. Buddhism as Vikramaditya was inclined towards Hinduism.

Siladitya was succeeded by Prabhakara Vardhana about 580, and Prabhakara was succeeded by Rajya Vardhana about 605. Rajya Vardhana was defeated and killed in a war with the king of Western Bengal, and was succeeded in 610 by Siladitya II., known as Sri Harsha in Sanskrit literature, and the greatest ruler of India after the time of Vikramaditya.

When Siladitya II. ascended the throne, he found himself surrounded by enemies. In six years, however, the vigorous young emperor conquered all his enemies and became the master of Northern India. Kanouj which had thrived under the Gupta kings was now the capital of Northern India, and when the Chinese traveller Houen Tsang came to Kanouj about 640, he found twenty princes from different parts of India attending the quinquennial Buddhist festival which Siladitya was celebrating with great pomp. It is remarkable that the king of Kamarupa or Assam, a staunch Hindu prince, attended this Buddhist ceremony as an honoured guest, and this is an indication of the mutual good feeling which existed between the followers of the two creeds. Siladitya himself was a Buddhist, but he respected and honoured Hindu Brahmins, and made gifts to them as well as to Buddhist Sramans. Siladitya is the reputed author of the Ratnavali drama, while the renowned novelists, Dandin and Banabhatta were his courtiers. Bhartrihari, author of Bhattikavya and the Satakas, also lived in this age.

Siladitya died about 650. We know very little of his successors, till we come to the time of Yasovarman who reigned from about 710 to 730. He was a weak prince, and was defeated in war by the powerful king of Kashmir. What makes this incident famous, is that the great dramatist Bhavabhuti, who lived in Yasovarman's court in Kanouj, was taken away to Kashmir by the conqueror. The history of Northern India becomes obscure after this period.

**Houen Tsang's Account of India.**—Over two centuries after Fa Hian, we have the account of another Chinese

pilgrim, Houen Tsang. He visited India about 630 A.D. He travelled and lived here for many years, and has left a full account of the different kingdoms and their people which is exceedingly valuable. He travelled through Kashmir and Mathura, and visited the Kura-Kshetra battle-field and the holy shrine of Hardwar, where hundreds and thousands of people gathered to bathe and wash in the Ganges. Kanouj was then the capital of Siladitya II., Emperor of Northern India. Siladitya was a Buddhist, and celebrated with great pomp the quinquennial festival to which twenty kings from different parts of India were invited, as we have said before.

Passing through Ayodhya, Houen Tsang came to Prayaga, where Hindus came in great numbers to bathe, and also to fast and to die in the hope of a happier life in heaven. Benares was another holy place where the god Mahesvara was worshipped, and there were twenty Hindu temples. There was a copper statue of Mahesvara 100 feet high, "its appearance," says Houen Tsang, "is grave and majestic, and appears as though really living."

The Buddhist pilgrim remained long in Magadha, which was for him full of holy associations connected with the life and acts of Gautama Buddha. Pataliputra was now in ruins, but the pilgrim visited the monasteries at Gaya and the University of Nalanda, then the greatest religious and educational institution in India. Houen Tsang says:—"Learned men from different cities, on this account, who desire to acquire quickly a renown for discussion, came here in multitudes to settle their doubts, and then the streams of knowledge spread far and wide." The great Vihara or monastery of Nalanda was worthy of it. Four kings contributed towards its construction, when it was completed, men came from a distance of 2,000 miles to attend the assembly that was held.

Passing through Hiranya Parvata (near Monghyr) and Champa (near Bhagalpur) our traveller came to Bengal, which was then divided into five kingdoms, *viz.*, Pundra or North Bengal, Kamarupa or Assam, Samatata or East Bengal, Karna

Suvarna or West Bengal, and Tamralipti, the south-western sea-coast. Pundra was thickly populated and rich in all kinds of grain produce. At Kamarupa the people were simple and honest, of small stature and dark yellow complexion, and spoke a language different from that of India. The people of Samata were small and dark, but hardy and fond of learning and diligent in its acquisition,—a description which applies to the people of East Bengal to the present day. At Tamralipti the people were hardy and brave, but quick and hasty. Karna Suvarna was thickly populated, and the people were fond of learning and honest.

Turning southwards, Houen Tsang now passed through Orissa where the people spoke a different language from that of Northern India. He went through Kalinga and the great Andhra country, and came to two mountain monasteries, Purvisila and Aparasila, the latter of which has been identified with the Amaravati tope near the mouth of the Krishna river.

South of the Krishna were the Chola and Dravida and Malakuta kingdoms; and turning northwards from these places, Houen Tsang at last came to the country of the Maharashtra, then one of the bravest nations in India. "To their benefactors," says Houen Tsang, "they are grateful; to their enemies, relentless. If they are insulted they will risk their lives to avenge themselves. If they are asked to help one in distress, they will forget themselves in their haste to render assistance. If they are going to seek revenge, they first give their enemy warning; then, each being armed, they attack each other with spears. If a general loses a battle, they do not inflict punishment, but present him with woman's clothes, so he is driven to seek death for himself."

On the eastern frontier of the Maharashtra country Houen Tsang saw the Ajanta caves. He then passed on to Malwa, and thence to the flourishing kingdom of the Valabhis in the Katiawar Peninsula. The maritime trade brought immense wealth to the people. "There are," says our traveller, "some hundred families or so who possess a hundred lakhs.

The rare and valuable products of distant regions are stored here in great quantities." After passing through Gujrat, Ujjayini and Sindh, Houen Tsang left India and returned to China in 645.

It should be noted that Houen Tsang found Hinduism and Buddhism, Hindu temples and Buddhist monasteries, flourishing side by side almost in every kingdom through which he passed. Indeed, excepting the acts of a few persecuting kings, religious persecution was almost unknown in ancient India ; and Buddhism and Hinduism flourished in mutual respect and peaceful toleration of each other for over a thousand years. It is with pleasure also that we note that the Chinese, as well as the Greeks, bear the same testimony to the honesty, the uprightness, and the truthfulness of the ancient Hindus. "With respect to the ordinary people," says Houen Tsang, "although they are naturally light-minded, yet they are upright and honourable. In money matters they are without craft, and in administering justice they are considerate. They dread the retribution of another state of existence, and make light of the things of the present world. They are not deceitful or treacherous in their conduct, and are faithful to their oaths and promises."

We will make one more extract from Houen Tsang's travels relating to the system of administration in the olden times : "The private demesnes of the Crown are divided into four principal portions, the first is for carrying on the affairs of the state and providing sacrificial offerings, the second is for providing subsidies for the ministers and chief officers of state ; the third is for rewarding men of distinguished ability ; and the fourth is for charity to religious bodies whereby the field of merit is cultivated. Hence the taxes of the people are light, and the personal service required of them is moderate ; each one keeps his own worldly goods in peace, and all till the ground for their subsistence. Those who cultivate the royal estates pay one-sixth part of the produce as tribute. The merchants, who engage in commerce, come and go in carrying

out their transactions. The river passage and the road barriers are open on payment of a small toll. When the public works require it, labour is exacted, but paid for. The payment is in strict proportions to the work done. The military guard the frontiers, or go out to punish the refractory. They also mount guard at night round the palace. The soldiers are levied according to the requirements of the service ; they are promised certain payment, and are publicly enrolled. The governors, ministers, magistrates, and officials have each a portion of land assigned to them for their personal support."

**The Rajputs.**—The three brilliant centuries, which opened with Vikramaditya and Kalidasa, closed with the great Sankaracharya who lived early in the ninth century, and revived the Vedanta religion and philosophy in India. Sankara was the successor of Kumarila, and both strove to revive the Hindu faith. Then followed what may be called the Dark Age of India. As western Europe after the fall of the Roman Empire remained engulfed in obscurity for about five centuries, till the Germanic tribes issued from their forests in the north and laid the foundations of modern Europe, so Hindustan remained in darkness from the ninth century, until the Rajputs issued from their wild countries in the west and the south conquered and founded new kingdoms. The Chauhan Rajputs established themselves in Ajmere, the Paramara in Malwa, the Chaura in Gujerat, the Gihlot in Mewar, and the Chandella in Bundelkhand. India was parcelled out into a number of small kingdoms which, as we shall see, made the work of conquest so easy for the Mahomedans.

**Kashmir.**—Kashmir has a connected history called the Raja Tarangini by Kalhan a Pundit from the time of Kanishka in the first century after Christ to the Mahomedan conquest. Thirty kings are said to have ruled Kashmir after Kanishka, and then Matrigupta was helped to the throne in the middle of sixth century A. D. by his friend and patron Vikramaditya the Great. His successor is said to have defeated Siladitya and brought back from Ujjayini the throne of Kash-

mir. One of his successors was the powerful Lalitaditya who conquered Kanouj and brought away the poet Bhavabhuti to his own court. He carried his conquering arms as far as Bengal and the Karnatic, and returned through the Vindhya and Avanti. He died while leading an expedition across the Himalayas to conquer the unexplored north. Another famous name was that of Avantivarman, who was also a powerful conqueror. He built in the ninth century a new capital called Avantipura, the ruins of which are still visited by travellers in Kashmir. After him the history of Kashmir is mainly a story of weak and profligate kings and queens, and of civil wars.

**Gujrat.**—The ancient Hindu Kingdom of Saurashtra, rich in the legends of Krishna, was founded on the south coast of the Katiawar Peninsula in the Epic Age, over a thousand years before Christ. It formed a portion of the extensive empire of Chandragupta and Asoka in the fourth and third centuries before Christ, and then passed under the rule of Kanishka in the first century after Christ. After Kanishka's death his vassals, the Shah Kings, became independent. Later on the Valabhis under Bhataraka founded a powerful kingdom there. The dynasty of Bhataraka reigned for over three hundred years (460-780).

Houen Tsang, when he visited this country found the Valabhis flourishing and much given to trade; and Valabhipura, near modern Bhaonagar, was a centre of the sea-borne trade. About 780, however, the Chalukya Rajputs from the south forced their way into Gujrat, destroyed the Valabhi kingdom, and founded their new capital at Anhilwara Pattan which rose in power and fame. Another Rajput dynasty wrested the kingdom from the Chalukyas about 980, and the ruling prince of this dynasty, gallantly, but vainly, tried to oppose the march of Mahmud of Ghazni when he came to sack the temple of Somnath Pattan.\* Mahmud's invasion left no lasting result, and the same dynasty continued to rule in Gujrat.

\*The reader must distinguish between Anhilwara Pattan and Somnath Pattan. The former, north of modern Ahmedabad, was the

**The Deccan.**—The great Andhras founded a powerful kingdom in the Deccan several centuries before Christ, and held sway till some centuries after Christ. Then the Chalukya Rajputs came and conquered the Deccan and ruled from the fifth to the latter end of the twelfth century. The western branch of this royal house held sway in the Konkan and the Maharashtra country, and had its capital at Kalyan. Jaya Sinha, the founder of this branch, ascended the throne in 470. His sixth successor, Pulakesin II was the great and powerful rival of Kanouj, and was reigning when Houen Tsang visited the country. Siladitya conquered all Northern India, but could not conquer Pulakesin and his Mahrattas. Some of the great Hindu temples of Ellora were built in the 8th or 9th century A. D. The power of the dynasty was subverted for a time in the beginning of the tenth century, but was re-established within the same century, and continued till the extinction of the dynasty in 1189. The Yadava kings of Deoghar then succeeded, and the last of them, Rama Chandra, was conquered by Alla-ud-din Khilji.

The Eastern branch of the Chalukyas ruled in the Eastern Deccan, from the mouths of the Krishna to the frontiers of Cuttack, and had their capital at Rajamandri. Vishnu Var-dhana founded this dynasty in 605, and the old family managed to regain their power after every revolution until the kingdom passed by marriage to Rajendra Chola, the sovereign of Southern India (south of the Krishna), and then the most powerful ruler in India.

**Southern India.**—The sister kingdoms of Chola, Chera and Pandya existed to the south of the Krishna river from before the Christian Era. Chola was the eastern sea board—along the Kavari river and to its north—and had its capital in

Hindu capital of Gujerat from the close of the eighth to the close of the thirteenth century, when it was conquered by Alla-ud-din Khilji. The latter was a seaport in the south of Katiawar Peninsula, within the ancient Hindu Kingdom of Saurashtra, and is otherwise known as Prabhas Pattan connected with the legends of Krishna.

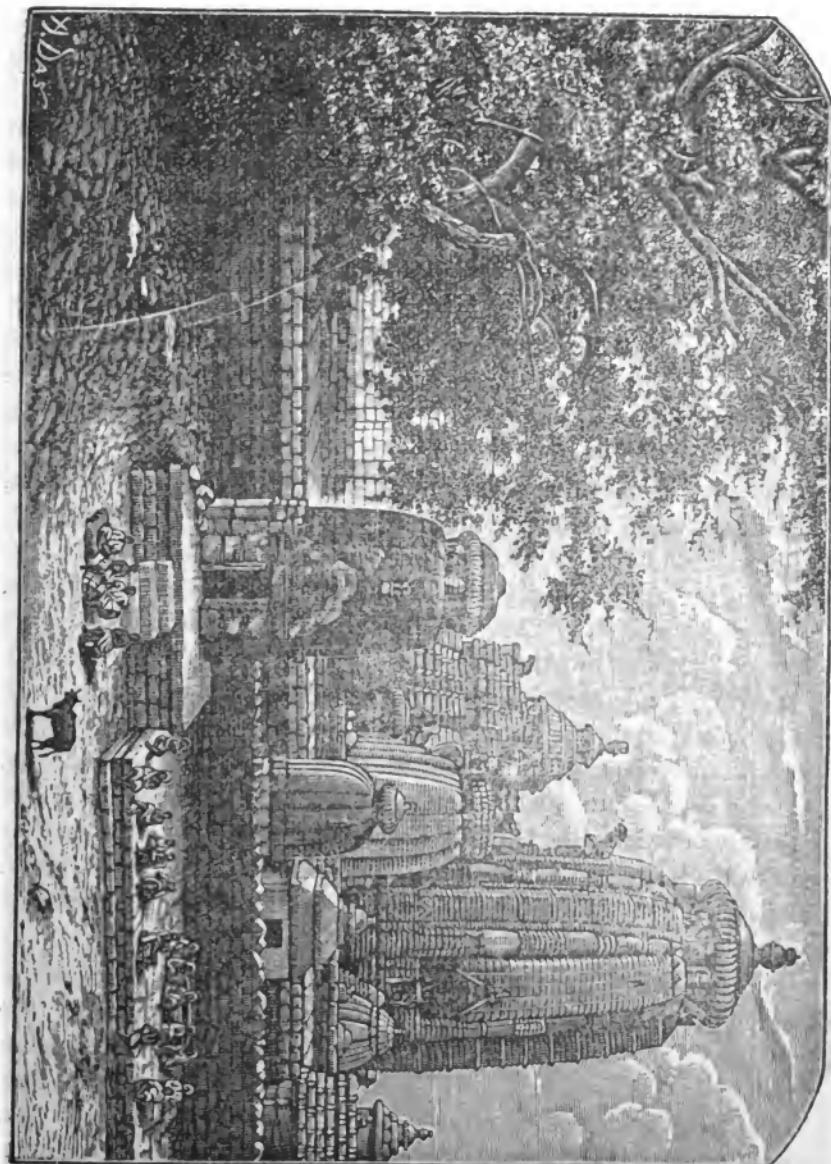
the classic town of Kanchi, or the modern Conjeveram. Chera was the western sea-board and included Malabar and Travancore. And Pandya was in the extreme south, including the modern districts of Tinnevelly and Madura.

Pandya was the most ancient of the three sister kingdoms, and is said to have been so named because it was founded by descendants of the Pandava race, who came here by the sea from Gujerat, and founded a capital which they named Mathura (Madura). Anyhow it is certain that the Pandya kingdom was sufficiently civilized, immediately before and after the Christian era, to carry on a brisk trade with European nations. The Cholas, however, rose to supreme power in later times, and Rajendra Chola annexed Eastern Deccan, and was the master of Southern India, in the eleventh century after Christ.

As elsewhere in India, the Rajputs came and conquered in Southern India. The Ballala Rajputs rose in the tenth century, and founded a powerful kingdom on the ruins of the three sister kingdoms in the eleventh century, and ruled over the whole of the Karnatic. They built the Hullabid temple, one of the finest specimens of Hindu architecture. After nearly three hundred years they were subverted by the Mahomedans in 1310. Another great Rajput House, the Kakatis, rose in Warrangal in Eastern Deccan towards the close of the eleventh century, but their power was also subverted in 1323 by the Mahomedans. The more distinguished kingdom of Vijayanagar was founded in 1344 and lasted for over two centuries, until the last king was beaten by the Mahomedans in the battle of Telicota in 1565. But of this we will speak later on.

**Orissa.**—Turning northwards we come to Orissa. Asoka's conquest of Kalinga brought Orissa in closer contact with the West, and generations of Buddhist kings ruled in the province. The remains of Buddhist caves, palaces and inscriptions may still be found in the Khandagiri and Udayagiri caves. Buddhist rule came to a close in the fifth century after Christ, and Hinduism triumphed under a new dynasty.

Yayati Kesari founded the Kesari or "Lion" dynasty in 476. The dynasty ruled in Bhubaneswar, and built those great temples dedicated to Siva, which are the oldest existing specimens of Hindu temple architecture. They also had a capital at Jajpur, and Nripa Kesari founded Cuttack in 950. The Ganga or "Gangetic" dynasty succeeded the Kesaris in 1132, and held sway till 1534. Vishnu, or Krishna, was the favourite deity of this dynasty. Ananga Bhima of this line built the temple of Jagannath in 1174. Purushottama, a later king who ruled at the close of the fifteenth century, carried his conquering arms to the south, and defeated the king of Kanchi and married his daughter. His successor Pratapa Rudra was ruling when the great Vaishnava reformer Chaitanya visited Orissa.



BHUBANESWAR.

After the extinction of the Gangetic House, five kings of a new dynasty ruled, after which the country was conquered by the Moslems under Kalapahar in 1560.

**Bengal.**—Lastly, we turn to the history of Bengal. When Megasthenes visited India in the fourth century B. C., he found several powerful kingdoms in Bengal, which he called by the general name of Kalinga. And the conquest of Kalinga by Asoka the Great in the third century brought Bengal into closer contact with the West.

Buddhism and Hinduism flourished side by side in Bengal when Houen Tsang came to this province about 640, and the account which the Chinese traveller gave of Bengal has been alluded to before. The province was then divided into five powerful kingdoms, *viz.*, Pundra, or North Bengal; Samatata, or East Bengal; Kamarupa, or Assam; Tamralipti, or South Bengal; and Karna Suvarna, or West Bengal.

In the ninth century, the Rajputs, then masters of all India, founded the Pala dynasty of Bengal. Gopala began his reign about 850, and was the master of all Magadha and Bengal. Dharmapala succeeded him, and his successor Devapala, who ascended the throne about 900, is said to have conquered the whole of Northern India from the Himalayas to the Vindhya, as far as Assam to the east. Two kings succeeded; and then we come to the time of Rajyapala, who was still master of all Northern India, and held Kanouj under his sway, when Sultan Mahmud of Ghazni invaded India and came to Kanouj.

After the retreat of Sultan Mahmud, Rajyapala's successor, Mahipala, founded a new capital at Bari about 1026. He reigned for fifty-two years and extended his supremacy as far as Orissa in the south. He was, however, the last great king of the dynasty. The Sena Rajas of Eastern Bengal now rose in power, and gradually extended their possessions westwards until they were masters of all Bengal.

The origin of the Sena Rajas of Eastern Bengal is lost in obscurity. Adi Sura, or Vira Sena, was the founder of the dynasty, and ruled probably in the tenth century, and brought some learned Brahmins and Kayasthas from Kanouj to Bengal. Ballala, who ruled in the eleventh century, made a classification of the Brahmins and Kayasthas of Bengal, and made some rules about Kulins, which have been much abused in more recent times. Lakshmana, Madhava and Kesava then successively filled the throne, and then the last Hindu King, Lakshmaneya, ascended it in 1142. He had a long and prosperous reign of over sixty years, and in his old age Bengal was conquered by the Musalmans.

Some progress was made in poetry, learning and sciences during the tenth, eleventh, and twelfth centuries. Magha, who lived in the court of king Bhoja of Malwa, composed the famous poem *Sisupalabhadha*. Harsha, probably of Benares, composed *Naishadha*. And Jayadeva of Bengal composed *Gita Govinda*. In Arithmetic, the Decimal Notation discovered by the Hindus was carried to Europe by the Arabs, and raised that branch of mathematics to a science. The great astronomer Bhaskara Acharya lived in the twelfth century and his solutions of great algebraical problems were not known in Europe till the eighteenth century.

## CHAPTER VI.

### MAHOMEDAN INVASIONS AND CONQUESTS.

A. D. 711 to 1206.

**Muhammad and Arab Conquests.**—The country of Arabia is composed of vast sandy deserts, with rich oasis and comparatively fertile tracts here and there. The tribes who dwelt in these favoured spots lived a settled life, while bands of nomad tribes roved through the deserts with their camels and horses in quest of pasture or of plunder. The Arabs came early in contact with the civilization of Assyria, Babylon and Palestine, of Egypt, Greece and Rome, of Media, Persia and India, and they carried on much of the maritime trade between India and the Western countries. But nevertheless, on account of the poverty of their country, they could never develop a high civilization of their own, and they never founded any great and civilized empire in ancient times.

The early Arabs worshipped the stars and were idolators. But Muhammad, who was born in the sixth century after Christ, conceived the great idea of spreading the religion of One God among his rude countrymen. For ten years he preached in vain in his native town of Mecca ; and at last his life was threatened and he escaped from Mecca to Medina in 622.

Muhammad now appealed to arms, and proclaimed that he was authorised to employ them to convert unbelievers. The hardy and warlike Arabs gradually gathered round their leader and embraced his noble religion ; and before his death, in 632, Muhammad had brought the whole of Arabia under subjection.

The tide of wars and conquests continued to spread after his death. Persia, Syria, Egypt, and the whole of Northern Africa gradually fell under the sway of the victorious Arabs ; Spain was conquered early in the eighth century ; and thus,

within eighty years after the death of Muhammad, the empire of the Saracens extended from the Atlantic to the Indus, under the supremacy of the great Kalif of Bagdad.

It was in the eightieth year after the death of Muhammad that the first Musalman invasion of India took place. An Arab ship having been seized at the seaport of Dewal, the Musalmans demanded restitution, which was refused by Dahir, king of Sindh. Accordingly Muhammad Kasim was sent with 6,000 men, in 711, and he successively reduced Dewal, Hyderabad and Sehwan. The intrepid general then penetrated as far as Alor, the capital of Sindh. A pitched battle was fought, the Hindus were beaten, and the brave Dahir fell fighting gallantly in the midst of the Arabian cavalry. His widow bravely defended the town for a time. But provisions failed; the Rajput women perished in flames; and the Rajput warriors rushed out of the town, sword in hand, and fell fighting to a man. Multan was then conquered and the whole of Dahir's dominions fell under the sway of Kasim.

The Musalmans retained possession of some parts of Sindh after this date. But for over two hundred years, India was free from any fresh Moslem invasions.

Alaptagin was a Turki slave, and came in course of time to Alaptagin and be appointed Governor of Khorasan by the Sabaktagin. Kalif. On the death of his master, however, Alaptagin was deprived of his government, and fled to Ghazni, where he founded a new kingdom in 961. After his death, his slave Sabaktagin succeeded him in Ghazni in 977.

The Hindus looked with alarm on the establishment of a new and powerful kingdom so close to their own provinces, and Jaipal, the Rajput king of Lahore, invaded the possessions of Sabaktagin. The two armies met, but a furious tempest prevented a battle, and Jaipal retreated after surrendering fifty elephants, and promising a large ransom.

On returning to his kingdom, Jaipal refused to fulfil the agreement; and Sabaktagin accordingly assembled his troops

and marched towards the Indus. Jaipal was joined by reinforcements from Delhi, Ajmir, Kanouj and other places, and had an immense army; but the discipline of the Moslems prevailed over the valour of the Rajputs, and Jaipal's army was defeated with terrible slaughter. Sabaktigin took possession of the country as far as the Indus, and then returned to Ghazni. He died in 997.

**Sultan Mahmud : his Expeditions.**—He was succeeded by his son, the renowned Mahmud. One of his first acts was to declare himself independent of the Kalifs, and to assume the title of Sultan, which has been so frequently assumed by Mahomedan prince since. Having secured himself on his throne, he turned towards India, which presented an unlimited field for conquest, glory and plunder.

In 1001, Mahmud marched against his father's old antagonist, the brave Jaipal, in the neighbourhood of Peshwar. The Hindus were beaten after an obstinate battle, Jaipal being taken prisoner with his sons. He was subsequently released on payment of a large ransom. But unable to bear the disgrace of defeat and captivity he made over his kingdom to his son Anangapal, mounted a pyre, and perished in the flames.

Mahmud's second expedition, in 1004, was directed against the Raja of Bhatia, near Multan, who had withheld tribute. The gallant chief obstinately resisted the Moslems for three days, but had at last to give way. Preferring death to captivity he turned his sword on his own breast and fell, and Bhatia was stormed. The following year Mahmud undertook his third expedition which was directed against the Mahomedan ruler of Multan who had renounced his allegiance to Mahmud. The rebellious ruler was pardoned on promise of future obedience and a large annual tribute. His fourth expedition, in 1008, was more important; it was undertaken to punish Anangapal for the assistance he had rendered to the ruler of Multan. Anangapal had asked and received assistance from his compatriots, the Rajas of Ujjayini, Kanouj, Delhi and Ajmir, and they all fought with the ardour of men defending

their freedom and faith. Ferishta tells us that Hindu females sold their jewels and melted down their ornaments to furnish resources for their war. But Mahmud defeated the vast Hindu army. He then marched against the sacred fort of Nagarkot, which he took and plundered, and returned to Ghazni laden with an immense booty in gold and jewels. His fifth expedition was against Multan, and the sixth to the holy temple of Thanesvar between the Saraswati and the Jumna, which he plundered. Mahmud returned to Ghazni it is said with 200,000 captives and so much wealth that, in the words of Ferishta, Ghazni appeared like an Indian city, no soldier of the camp being without wealth, or without many slaves. In his seventh and eighth expeditions he tried to penetrate into Kashmir, but had to give up the enterprise.

In 1017, Mahmud undertook his tenth Indian expedition on a grand scale. He collected 100,000 horse and 200,000 foot, and passing near Kashmir and keeping close to the mountains, successively crossing the rivers of the Punjab, and the Jumna unexpectedly appeared before Kanouj, which was then ruled by Rajyapal. "He there saw a city," writes Ferishta, "which raised its head to the skies, and which in strength and beauty might boast of being unrivalled." Rajyapal was taken unawares, and submitted to the invader without striking a blow. Mahmud then took Mirut and other places and at last appeared before Mathura. The terrible conqueror was himself struck with the beauty of the town and wrote to the Governor of Ghazni thus:—"There are here a thousand edifices as firm as the faith of the faithful, most of them of marble, besides innumerable temples: nor is it likely this city has attained its present condition but at the expense of many millions of Dinars nor could such another be constructed under a period of two centuries." Mahmud halted in Mathura for twenty days, pillaged the town as usual, melted down the idols and left the place with immense booty. After continuing his march along the Jumna, for some further distance, in course of which he sacked several Hindu temples, he returned to Ghazni.

Mahmud's tenth and eleventh expeditions were undertaken to punish the king of Kalinjar who had a hand in killing Rajyapal of Kanouj for having submitted to Mahmud without striking a blow. In the former Lahore was taken and a Mahomedan Viceroy was stationed there, but in the latter Mahmud was conciliated by various presents and a Sanskrit panegyric which soothed his pride.

The next year Mahmud undertook his last and greatest expedition. The Temple of Somnath Pattan was situated in the south of the Katiawar Peninsula, and was famous for its wealth and sanctity, which fired like the cupidity and religious zeal of the grim invader. He accordingly set out from Ghazni in September 1024 with a large army. On reaching Multan, Mahmud collected 20,000 camels, safely crossed the great desert over 300 miles broad, and reached Ajmir. After plundering the town, he marched southwards along the foot of the Aravalli Mountains until he reached Anhilwara Pattan, the capital of Gujrat. Chamunda Deva, the reigning king, was perfectly unprepared for the attack and fled on the approach of the enemy. Mahmud followed up his march till he reached Somnath Pattan. Here he met with a very obstinate resistance. For two days all attempts of the invading army to scale the walls proved fruitless. On the third day the neighbouring Hindu princes arrived with their troops and compelled Mahmud to relinquish the fort and move against them. The battle raged with great fury, and for a long time the victory was doubtful. But in the end the Moslem troops furiously rushed forwards, broke through the Hindu lines, and routed the Hindu army. Mahmud then entered the temple, sacked it and destroyed the images. In the words of Ferishta the treasure found in the Somnath temple\* was more

\* Somnath temple was frequently sacked by later Mahomedans, and was frequently restored by Hindus, and still stands an imposing edifice on the sea-shore. But it is now a deserted ruin, and worship is now performed in a neighbouring building constructed by the pious Ahayla Bai of Indore.

than any royal treasury contained before. He then returned to Anhilwara Pattan and was so pleased with the place that he was tempted to make it his future capital. But yielding to the advice of his officers, he consented to abandon the place, and returned to his native country.

News now reached Mahmud that the king of Anhilwara Pattan had assembled a large army to cut off his return by way of Ajmir. Mahmud with his reduced force was anxious to avoid a fresh encounter, and so proceeded to Multan through the sands of Sindh.

The miseries of the army across the pathless sands were

**Death of Mahmud, 1030.** extreme, many perished of thirst and many died raving mad before Mahmud could reach Multan. He returned of Ghazni in 1026, and died four years after.

Mahmud was undoubtedly the most consummate general **His character.** add conqueror of his age. His prudence in maturing his ambitious plans, his energy and activity in carrying out his designs, and his coolness and determination in the midst of the most appalling dangers, command our admiration and praise. But Mahomedan writers charge Mahmud with an inordinate avarice, and certainly it is difficult to discern any other motive in all his Indian expeditions. They did not serve any civilizing purpose, they did not spread the Moslem faith, nor were they undertaken with any consistent plan of conquest. They form a sickening record of the plunder of rich towns and holy temples, of the massacre of brave garrisons, of the enslaving of unoffending men and women and children to be sold in the bazars of Ghazni. His vast dominions won by the force of arms, but not consolidated by the wisdom of statesmanship, crumbled to pieces after his death.

One hundred twenty-two years after the death of Mahmud, Ghazni was entirely destroyed by Alauddin of the House of Ghor. Alauddin was succeeded by Saijuddin in 1156. But he died the next year and was succeeded by his cousin

Ghiyasuddin. Ghiyasuddin's brother Shahabuddin Muhammad Ghori was the real Moslem conqueror of India.

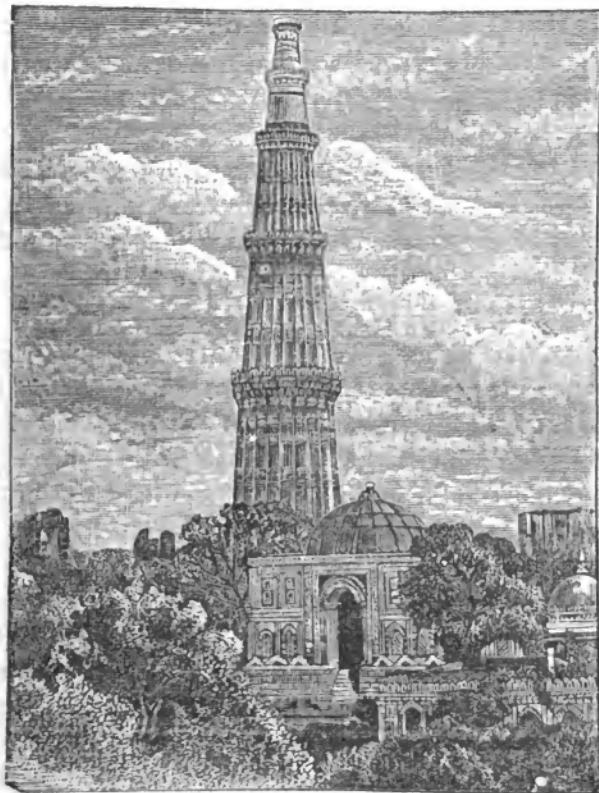
**Shahabuddin Muhammad Ghori**.—A descendant of Sultan Mahmud was still holding sway at Lahore, but Shahabuddin, after a number of minor expeditions, took Lahore in 1184, and sent the last Ghaznivite king a prisoner to Ghiyasuddin.

Shahabuddin now entered upon the conquest of India. He proceeded towards Ajmir and took the town of Bitunda. When returning, he encountered Prithu Rai, the king of Delhi and Ajmir, and his brother Chawand Rai at Tirouri on the Sarasvati river, about eighty miles from Delhi. The *Tirouri.* Mahomedans were signally defeated, and Shahabuddin himself was wounded, and with difficulty carried off by a faithful follower. The rout was complete, and the Mahomedans were pursued for forty miles.

In 1193, Muhammad Ghori returned to India with a very large army of Turks and Afghans, the bravest among his subjects. A second battle was fought at Tirouri, in which the Hindu army was completely defeated, Chawand Rai being among the slain. Prithu Rai was captured and afterwards put to death in cold blood. After this victory Ajmir was taken. Muhammad Ghori's former slave, now trusty subordinate, Kutbuddin, took Delhi. The next year Muhammad Ghori defeated Jaichandra, king of Kanouj, and took Kanouj and Benares. Kutbuddin followed up these conquests, took Anhilwara Pattan, and ravaged Gujerat. His lieutenant Bukhtiyar Khilji, who had already conquered Oudh and North Behar, reduced the rest of Behar and Bengal and took Gaur. Shortly after, while about to depart from India, Muhammad Ghori was encamped on the Indus, when a band of Gakkars entered his camp and killed him. From that time Kutbuddin became the master of Northern India.

CHAPTER VII.  
PATHAN KINGS.  
A. D. 1206 to 1525.  
SLAVE KINGS.

**Kutbuddin.**—Kutbuddin, who now became king of Delhi and Northern India, had been in his early life a slave of Muhammad Ghori. The line of kings of which he was the first was, therefore, called the Dynasty of Slave Kings. Kutbuddin reigned for four years and died in 1210, leaving behind him the reputation of an able, vigorous and just ruler. The lofty and tapering shaft of red sandstone, in Delhi, 242 feet high, still preserves his name.



KUTB MINAR.

His son Aram had no capacity as a ruler, and was dethroned within a twelve month from the date of his accession.

**Altamsh.**—Shamsuddin Altamsh was brought to Delhi as a slave and was bought by Kutbuddin, who gave him his daughter in marriage. He was governor of Behar when the weak Aram was on the throne of Delhi, and he had little difficulty in dethroning his brother-in-law and ascending the throne in 1211.

It was during the reign of Altamsh that the locust hordes of the Moguls spread over Asia and penetrated into Europe under the terrible Chengiz Khan.

No such calamity had befallen mankind since the time of the Huns in the fourth and the fifth century, and every country through which the Moguls passed was devastated and ruined. Happily the storm passed by India ; the terrible invaders did not penetrate beyond the Indus.

After the retreat of the Moguls, Altamsh attacked his wife's uncle, Nasiruddin Kubacha, who had asserted his independence in Sindh. Nasiruddin was accidentally drowned in his retreat, and the whole of Sindh submitted to Altamsh.

He then turned against Ghiyasuddin Khilji, Governor of Bengal. Behar and Bengal, who had asserted his independence. Altamsh deprived him of Behar, and forced him to hold Bengal under the sovereignty of Delhi. The proud Ghiyasuddin made a subsequent attempt to retrieve his fortunes and his position, but was beaten by the son of Altamsh, and lost his life in the conflict.

After this, Altamsh was engaged for six years in the conquest of Malwa. He first took Rintambor and then Mandu, a town of great extent and strength. He then besieged the hill fort of Gwalior, and took it after a year. Last of all, the ancient capital of Ujjayini was taken. The great temple of Mahakala celebrated by the poet Kalidasa, and the statue of Vikramaditya contained in the

temple, were demolished by the Moslem conqueror. And thus all traces of the works of the great Hindu Emperor, who had defeated the Huns and had saved his country from foreign invasions, were effaced after a lapse of seven hundred years. Altamsh died shortly afterwards, in 1236.

His son Ruknuddin was a dissolute prince and left the conduct of all business to his mother, Shah Turkan, who was a monster of cruelty. Ruknuddin was deposed, and his sister, Rezia Begum, raised to the throne.

**Rezia.**—Rezia had been left in charge of affairs in her father's life time. Though a woman she had a man's head and heart. On her accession to the throne, she changed her apparel, assumed imperial robes, and gave public audience from the throne every day.

For a time everything went on smoothly under her able administration ; but a single act of indiscretion caused her fall. She showed great favour to an Abyssinian slave, whom she raised to the office of Master of the horse and to that of Amir-ul-Omra. Malik Altunia, governor of Bitunda, revolted on the plea of the queen's partiality to the Abyssinian. Rezia marched against him, but her Turki soldiers mutinied, her favourite was killed, and she was made prisoner. Her brother Bahram was raised to the throne.

Rezia now had recourse to a woman's art. Altunia was induced by love or by ambition to marry her, and they both marched towards Delhi. The king's general, however, defeated them after an obstinate conflict, and Rezia fled to Bitunda. She reassembled her scattered forces and once again marched towards Delhi, but was again defeated ; and shortly after she and her husband were killed, 1239.

**Maizuddin Bahram and Masaud.** Maizuddin Bahram was one of the worthless sons of Altamsh, and his short reign was inglorious.

Alauddin Masaud, the son of Ruknuddin, succeeded, and the reign of this dissolute prince was equally barren of results. Nasiruddin Mahmud,

the youngest son of Altamsh, was at last raised to the throne in 1246.

**Nasiruddin Mahmud and Ghiyasuddin Balban**— After the death of Altamsh, his cruel widow, Shah Turkan, kept the young prince Nasiruddin Mahmud in imprisonment. He had been released and placed in charge of the government of a small place, and now he was elected by the nobles as king, in place of the deposed Masaud.

A man of piety and studious habits, Nasiruddin was a patron of learning. The administration of the country was entrusted to his minister Ghiyasuddin Balban who was formerly a slave, and had eventually married the daughter of Altamsh.

The Moguls had repeatedly invaded India since the time of Altamsh, and were now in possession of all the provinces west of the Indus. To guard against any danger from that quarter, Balban formed the frontier provinces into one strong government and placed it under his nephew Sher Khan.

The king himself proceeded to the Punjab, and chastised the Gakkars for their co-operation with the Moguls, and brought refractory Jaigirdars under obedience.

Two Hindu Rajas had, during the weak reigns of Nasiruddin's predecessors, taken possession of the whole of the country south of the Jumna. Nasiruddin and Ghiyasuddin defeated the Rajas, and settled the hilly country of Mewat. Three years after, Nasiruddin and his Vizier took some forts in Bundelkand, and brought the whole of Malwa under subjection.

Some years later, the Rajas and Rajputs of Mewat again increased in power, and Ghiyasuddin Balban went against them and ravaged their country. The Rajputs thus rendered desperate, collected all their forces and descended from the mountains to attack Balban's forces. The attack was violent and fierce, and Balban had great difficulty in keeping his men together. But at last the Hindus were beaten, losing 10,000

men in the field, and the country was once more subdued. Nasiruddin died in 1266, after a reign of twenty years.

The *Tabakat-i-Nasiri*, a famous history of Persia and India, was written at his Court and takes its name after him.

Balban was a man of considerable ability and vigour and enjoyed almost regal powers during the reign of Nasiruddin whom he now succeeded. The forests of Mewat were still filled with bold and warlike Rajputs who made incursions even to the gates of Delhi. Balban sent an army, and, after a terrible slaughter, had the forest cleared and the land brought under cultivation.

Tughral Khan, the Governor of Bengal, had renounced allegiance to the throne of Delhi, and beat back two armies sent by Balban. So Balban personally proceeded to Bengal, first to Gaur and then to Sonargaon, near modern Dacca. The Zemindar of Sonargaon agreed to guard the river Megna to prevent the escape of Tughral. Tughral had, in the meantime, fled into the forests but was discovered and slain.

The Moguls now again invaded the Punjab. Prince Muhammad, Balban's eldest son, defeated them and recovered the country they had overrun. Another army of the Moguls came into the Punjab and a very sanguinary battle ensued, in which, too, the Moguls were defeated. Prince Muhammad was killed in this battle. It is said that Balban gave shelter to no less than fifteen exile kings who had been driven from their countries by Chengiz Khan. Balban died in 1286, and was succeeded by his grandson Kaikobad. Kaikobad was a dissolute young man and made a bad king. After a weak reign of 3 years he was assassinated in 1288.

### KHILJI KINGS.

**Jelaluddin.**—Jelaluddin Firoz, now raised to the throne, founded a dynasty viz., that of the Khiljis. To quell the Rajputs he at once marched to Malwa, sacked Ujjayini, and broke many Hindu temples, but returned without taking the

fort of Rintambor. The next year he defeated an army of the Moguls who had invaded the Punjab. He then marched against the Hindus of Mandu, in Malwa, and devastated their country. His nephew, Alau'udin, governor of Kara, plundered the Buddhist monastery at Bhilsa. Pleased with his success, Jelaluddin made him the governor of Oudh also.

The first invasion of the Deccan by the Moslems took place in 1294, that is, just a century after the conquest of Northern India by Muhammad Ghori.

After a march of about 700 miles, mostly through the mountains and forests of the Vindhya range, Alauddin suddenly appeared before Deoghar in the Mahratta country. The king Ramadeva was taken by surprise; he had gone with his wife to a neighbouring temple out of the city. He hastily collected three or four thousand citizens, but was defeated, and took shelter in the fort. The town was taken by Alauddin without resistance and given up to pillage, and the fort was invested. Ramadeva's son, Sankaradeva, in the meanwhile, came up with a large army, and an obstinate battle was fought, in which the Moslems were at first overpowered by numbers and fell back on all sides, but eventually the Hindus were beaten. A treaty was now concluded, and Alauddin raised the siege on the payment of an immense ransom in money and jewels, besides the cession of Elichpur.

**Alauddin.**—After his return from the Deccan, Alauddin sought an interview with his affectionate uncle, the king, and had him treacherously murdered, and ascended the throne in 1295.

The first great event of his reign was the conquest of Gujrat. The garrison left there by Muhammad Ghori had long since been withdrawn, and the Hindus had recovered their independence. Aluf Khan, Alauddin's brother, and Nasrat Khan ravaged the country and took Anhilwara Pattan the old capital of the kingdom. The Hindu King Karan Rai fled. Gujrat was thus conquered from the Hindus in 1297, and Mahomedan governors were

appointed, who soon removed the seat of government from Anhilwara Pattan to Ahmedabad.

The Moguls have invaded India early in Ala's reign, and had been defeated by Ala's brother at Lahore **Moguls.** with great slaughter. A second invasion of the Moguls was also beaten back ; and a third invasion, on a vast scale, immediately followed. Katlugh Khan crossed the Indus, it is said, with 200,000 horse, and marched as far as the Jamna without any opposition. The whole country was struck with panic. Delhi was filled with fugitives from the surrounding countries ; "famine began to rage," says Ferishta, "and desperation and dismay were exhibited on every countenance."

Alauddin marched out to meet the enemy with 300,000 horse and 2,700 elephants. The Moguls were beaten back and pursued for 30 miles.

Even after this defeat the Moguls made subsequent attempts to conquer India, until, in 1305, they were again signally beaten. All the men taken as prisoners were killed and the women and children were sold as slaves in the bazars of India. This was the last Mogul incursion during Ala's reign.

Ala now directed his attention to the conquest of Rajputana. He besieged the fort of Rintambor, one of the strongest in Hindustan, and, after a year wrested it from the Jaipur Rajputs (1300). The Raja Hambar Deva and his family and all the garrisons were put to the sword.

The first endeavour to bring the brave warriors of Mewar under subjection was made by Alauddin. He **Chitor.** marched to Chitor, the capital of the Rajput tribe of Sisodia, and besieged the town. The siege continued for a long time, provisions and water failed, and at last the Rajput women perished on the pyre, and the warriors rushed out of the fort and fell fighting with the Moslems. Chitor was thus taken in 1303 and placed in charge of Malladeva.

**Ein-ul-Mulk**, a general appointed by Ala to conquer Malwa, defeated the Raja of Malwa in battle and reduced Ujjayini, Mandu, Dhar and Chanderi.

Great preparations were now made for the conquest of the Deccan. Malik Kafur who was a eunuch, and had been the slave of a Cambay merchant, had risen to distinction in the service of Ala, and was destined to be the conqueror of the Deccan. A romantic incident marks the commencement of his conquests. Kamala Devi, formerly the queen of Gujrat, was now a wife of Ala. She had a daughter named Devala Devi by her former husband Karan Rai, and she desired to get her back. Malik Kafur sent these orders to Karan Rai; but Sankara Deva, the prince of Deoghar, sought the hand of the beautiful Devala, and her father refused the offer of the Moslem, and gave her in marriage to Sankara.

Hostilities were commenced. Alif Khan, the brother of Ala's queen, defeated Karan Rai in a pitched battle, and while the victor was halting near Deoghar, some of his troops went to see the famous cave temples of Ellora. By the merest accident they found Devala Devi there in charge of a Hindu troop. The troop was soon put to flight; and young Devala, then in her thirteenth year, was sent to Delhi and given in marriage to Ala's son, Khizr Khan. Amir Khasru, the court-poet, wrote a poem on the loves of Khizr Khan and Devala.

In the meantime Malik Kafur, having subdued a great part of the Mahratta territory, invested Deoghar. Deoghar. Rama Deva, king of Deoghar, submitted, and was sent to Delhi, where he was honoured by Ala and restored to his kingdom which he now consented to hold on payment of tribute.

An expedition which Ala had sent through Bengal to Warangal, on the banks of the Godabari, having failed, Malik Kafur was now ordered to invade that country through Deoghar. That able commander marched to the south and invested Warangal. The town was

taken, and the fort was saved by the payment of a ransom, and Malik Kafur returned in triumph to Delhi.

In the next year the invincible Kafur was again sent to the **Ballala Kingdom in the Karnatic.** south. He marched by Deoghar, crossed the Godavari, and penetrated to Dvara Samudra on the Western Sea, a hundred miles north-west of the modern Seringapatam, and then the capital of the Ballala Kings. The last Ballala Raja was taken prisoner, and the whole of the Karnatic as far as Ramesvaram was conquered in 1310. A mosque was built on the extreme southern point of India which was still existing when Ferishta wrote.

One more expedition to the south was undertaken by **Deoghar.** Malik Kafur, Rama Deva of Deoghar being dead, his son withheld the tribute. Malik Kafur now proceeded to the Deccan for the fourth time, seized the Raja of Deoghar, and inhumanly put him to death, and ravaged the Maharashtra country.

Alaaddin's constitution was by this time ruined by a long course of intemperance, and his last days were embittered by misfortunes. Gujrat rose in rebellion; the Rajputs of Chitor under Hamir, threw the Mahomedan officers over the walls and asserted their independence; and Harapal Deva, the son-in-law of Ram Deva of Deoghar, stirred up the Deccan to arms and expelled the Mahomedan garrisons. "On receiving these accounts," says Ferishta, "the king bit his own flesh with fury." But his rage only aggravated his illness, and he died in December, 1316, not without suspicion of being poisoned by the unscrupulous Malik Kafur, who had risen to such distinction and power under Ala, and who now openly aspired to the throne of Delhi.

Alaaddin had ascended the throne by the murder of his affectionate uncle, and was often capricious and tyrannical. But nevertheless his undoubted vigour and ability had their effect on his administration. His conquests were brilliant; his rule was firm; quiet and security prevailed in the provinces; and the increase of wealth showed itself in public and

private buildings throughout the Empire. He saved India from the Mughuls who at that age were desolating the fairest countries of Asia; he finally annexed Gujrat and Malwa; and he was the first Moslem conqueror of the Deccan. Without the genius or the true greatness of Akbar, he nevertheless stands prominent among the Pathan kings both for his extensive conquests and for his vigorous administration.

The history of the Delhi court, immediately after the death of Alauddin, is disfigured by almost unparalleled crimes and cruelties, intrigues and debauchery. After a number of revolutions Malik Kafur was killed, and Mubarak, a son of Ala, was raised to the throne.

This prince began his reign by cruelties and executions, and then made a bid for popularity by releasing Mubarak. 17,000 prisoners from the prisons of his kingdom.

Insurrections in Gujrat were quelled by the king's officers; and the king went in person against Harapal, Deoghar. the son-in-law of Rama Deva of Deoghar, who had recovered the country of the Mahrattas. The patriotic Harapal was captured, and was cruelly flayed alive.

Shortly after, the inhuman Mubarak put his own brothers to death, and took Devala Devi, Khizr's widow, into his own harem.

Other crimes followed in rapid succession. The King cast aside even the semblance of public decency, and disgusted his court by his indecorous behaviour. Malik Khasru, who was a low-caste Hindu, and had embraced the Moslem faith, now returned with a large booty from the Malabar Coast, and obtained supreme power at court. He at last murdered his master and all the survivors of Alauddin's family, transferred the beautiful Devala Devi to his own harem, and proclaimed himself king. "The vengeance of God," says Ferishta, "overtook and exterminated the race of Alauddin for his ingratitude to his uncle Feroz, and for the streams of innocent blood which flowed from his hands."

But the crimes of Malik Khasru were too shocking to be borne. Ghazi Khan Tughlak, the governor of the Punjab, marched towards Delhi, defeated the royal troops on the banks of the Sarasvati, and put an end to the reign and the life of the usurper. Ghazi Khan became king under the title of Ghiyasuddin, and founded a new dynasty in 1321.

### TUGHAK KINGS.

Ghiyasuddin Tughlak was the son of a Turki slave of king Ghiyasuddin Balban by a Hindu mother of **Ghiyasuddin.** the Jat tribe. His reign was commendable; he restored the administration of the country to order, and put the Kabul frontier in an effective state of defence against the Moguls. His son, Juna Khan, was sent to subdue the Raja of Warangal who had stopped his tribute.

**Warangal.** But Juna Khan failed in his attempt to take Warangal, was pursued in his retreat by the Hindus with great slaughter, and returned to Delhi with only 3,000 troops out of his great army. He was more successful, however, in his next attempt; he reduced Bidar and took Warangal, put many thousands of Hindus to death, and sent the Raja a prisoner to Delhi. The rule of the Kakati dynasty in Warangal was thus subverted in 1323.

Ghiyasuddin Tughlak then went to Bengal, where old **Bengal.** Bakarra Khan, the son of his father's master, Ghiyasuddin Balban, still retained his government after a lapse of forty years. Happy was the old and estimable Bakarra in his peaceful government of Bengal; he had calmly watched from that far retreat the crimes and follies, the victories and cruelties, the varying fortunes and destinies of six kings and two usurpers on the distant stage of Delhi.

Ghiyasuddin settled some disturbances of Sonargaon, near the modern Dacca, and on his way back took the fort of the Raja of Tirhut, surrounded by seven ditches full of water and a high wall. When returning towards his capital Ghiyasuddin

was received by his son, Juna Khan, and was crushed to death by the fall of a wooden pavilion, which Juna had raised on the occasion. It was suspected, and there were good reasons for the suspicion, that the ambitious and wild Juna Khan thus paved his way to the throne by the murder of his father, even as Ala had ascended the throne by murdering his uncle.

Juna Khan ascended the throne in 1325 under the title of Muhammad Tughlak. He was as accomplished as Ala had been illiterate. He was famed for his memory and his eloquence ; he knew Persian and Arabic ; he studied Astronomy and Mathematics, Logic and Greek philosophy ; he wrote Poetry, knew History, and even aspired to be a high priest as well as a king. But with all these qualifications, he was a wild visionary ; he delighted in impracticable and almost insane projects, and he wholly disregarded the miseries and sufferings which his capricious projects caused to the people.

The Moguls invaded India early in his reign and were bought off by an immense subsidy. After their departure Muhammad completed the reduction of the Deccan, and brought the most distant parts of his empire into perfect order.

Then followed a succession of wild schemes, which proved disastrous to India. He began by levying **Exactions and Copper Currency.**orbitant duties on the necessities of life. Farmers fled to the woods and maintained themselves by plunder ; lands were left uncultivated ; and famine desolated the provinces. The king next tried to introduce a sort of copper coin, which he issued at a high imaginary value, and caused to pass current at its nominal value throughout Hindustan. The results were as might have been expected. Foreign merchants refused to accept the coin ; trade was ruined ; and confusion and distress spread through all ranks.

**Schemes to con-  
quer Persia and  
China.** Muhammad's next scheme was to conquer Persia and Tary. He assembled a vast army which soon dispersed for want of pay, and carried pillage, ruin and death to every quarter. Then came the idea of the conquest of China. A vast army of 100,000 horse was sent through the Himalaya Mountains, only to find a larger Chinese army assembled on their frontier. The Indian army now began their retreat, pursued by the Chinese, harassed by the local mountain tribes, and worn out by famine. Torrents of rain fell, the hills were covered by impervious jungle, and the low-lands were inundated. Nearly the whole of the Indian army perished in fifteen days, and many of those who had survived were put to death by the king, because the expedition had not succeeded.

**Removal of the  
Capital.** Among the many wild projects of Muhammad, one of the worst was to abandon Delhi and to make Deoghar his capital. The people of Delhi were forced on pain of death to leave the city and repair to Deoghar; twice they were allowed to revisit Delhi and twice compelled to leave it again. Famine ensued on one of these occasions, and caused misery and death to thousands.

**Cruelty & Mas-  
sacre.** Darker cruelties followed. In order to avoid the king's heavy exactions, citizens had left their towns, and husbandmen their fields, to live in the woods. Enraged at this, the king repeatedly took out his army, as if for great hunts, surrounded extensive tracts of the country, ordered the circle to gradually close towards the centre, and massacred all the men found within the circle. A general massacre of the people of Kanouj was ordered on one occasion.

The vast fabric of the Pathan Empire in India trembled in consequence of such unparalleled barbarities and crimes. Bengal revolted under a Mussalman officer and became independent of Delhi. Bukka Rai, the Raja of the Karnatic, founded the kingdom of Vijayánagar in 1344. Hassan Gangu founded the great Bahmani dynasty in 1347, which ruled in the Deccan.

for over a century and a half. Rebellions broke out in Gujerat, Malwa, and Sindh. Mahammad acted with great vigour and tried to quell them. In 1351, when chasing some rebels in Sindh, Mahammad died ; and the Pathan Empire never afterwards regained the power and glory it had enjoyed under Alau-d-din. The history of Muhammad Tughlak affords a parallel to that of Aurangzeb of a later age. Both of them inherited an extensive empire ; both were learned and accomplished ; both were brave in war and vigorous in their administration. But both of them alienated the nation and its leaders by madness or bigotry, and the empire, deprived of its natural support, fell to pieces.

Muhammad's nephew, Firoz Tughlak, next became king. He received embassies from the Mahomedan rulers of Bengal and the Deccan and thus practically acknowledged their independence. Firoz distinguished himself as a humane and enlightened prince by putting a stop to torture, inaugurating many works of public utility, of which the Jamuna Canal is the most important, and by encouraging learning and literature. He died in 1388.

The short reigns of Ghiyasuddin, Abubakr, Nasiruddin and Humayun were marked by few incidents of <sup>Short reigns.</sup> any importance. After Humayun's death, his younger brother, Mahmud, was placed on the throne in 1394.

The weak administration of this minor king, the last of the Tughlak dynasty, was marked by insurrections and civil wars in all directions, and by the loss of provinces. The governor of Gujerat became an independent kingdom. Malwa, too, was lost to the Empire, and the king's Vizir founded an independent kingdom in Jaunpur in Behar. Delhi was torn by sanguinary broils among ambitious chiefs, until they were all overwhelmed in one common ruin by the invasion of the terrible Timur.

*Gujrat, Malwa,  
and Jaunpur.*

**Timur's invasion.**—Timur was a Tartar, born near Samarkand, but he claimed descent from the same stock with the Mogul Chengiz Khan, and certainly practised the cruelties and barbarities of the Moguls. He had conquered Persia and Transoxiana, and had ravaged Tartary, Turkey and portions of Russia before he turned to Hindustan in 1398. Timur crossed the Indus, and proceeded towards Delhi, ruin and carnage marking his course. The army of the king of Delhi was soon defeated, and the king left the city by night and fled to Gujrat, and Timur proclaimed himself Emperor of India.



TIMUR.

The usual cruelties and barbarities followed. Plunder and violence led to some resistance on the part of the inhabitants, and this led to a general massacre of the people. Immense booty was obtained, and the inhuman conqueror then left the deserted and ruined capital of India, dragging into slavery innumerable men and women of all ranks.

For two months Delhi remained almost without inhabitants. Struggles then ensued for its possession, and after various incidents, Mahmud was restored to the possession of Delhi where he died in 1412, after a nominal reign of twenty years. Daulat Khan Lodi succeeded him but was expelled after fifteen months by Khizr Khan, the governor of the Punjab.

### SYUD KINGS.

**Timur had appointed Syud Khizr Khan governor of Multan and Lahore previous to his departure from India, and Khizr Khan now ruled as Timur's Viceroy, and without the forms of royalty.**

His reign and those of his successors—Mubarak, Muhammad and Alauddin—occupied 36 years, from 1414 to 1450, but are barren of any memorable events. Petty wars continued, and the kingdom of Dehli was contracted to a small province within a few miles from the capital, when Behlul Lodi took possession of the Empire, and the last Syud king abdicated.

### LODI KINGS.

**Behlul Lodi's accession to the throne brought back the Punjab to the kingdom of Delhi. He also carried on a war of twenty-six years with the king of Jaunpur, and permanently annexed that country to Delhi. Thus a great portion of Northern India, from the Punjab to Jaunpur, once more belonged to Delhi, when Behlul died after a reign of thirty-eight years, in 1488.**

**Punjab and Jaunpur.**

On the death of Behlul, his son Sikandar was elected king. **Sikandar.** He re-annexed Behar as far as the frontiers of Bengal, obtained tribute from Tirhoot, and also extended his kingdom in other directions. He was a vigorous ruler and an accomplished and educated man, but a bigot. The reign of his successor, Ibrahim, was continuously disturbed by rebellions in all directions. The eastern portions of the kingdom soon threw off the yoke of Delhi; and in the west, the governor of the Punjab revolted, and invited Baber, who was then reigning in Kabul, to invade India. Baber came and advanced towards Delhi. Ibrahim had collected a large army at Panipat; but Baber defeated him with a much smaller force on the 21th April, 1526, and Ibrahim was killed. Shortly after the victory, Baber occupied Delhi and Agra, which last place had lately been the royal residence.

**Battle of Panipat.** **State of the Country.**—The Pathan Empire in India began to decline from the time of Muhammad Tughlak, and in course of one hundred and fifty years, its fall was complete. It was something like a military occupation. Garrisons of soldiers were stationed in the large cities and the chief centres of Hindu influence; Jaigirs were given to military leaders; and Kazis were appointed in towns to administer justice; but in the villages the Hindus lived as before, under their own village communities, or their hereditary chiefs or zamindars. The collection of revenue was made mainly through Hindu officials, and the Moslem conquerors interfered little with the old Hindu institutions which preserved peace and order in the country.

The population of India continued to be mainly Hindus, and the bigotry of the conquerors and the destruction of Hindu shrines and temples only made the Hindu religion dearer to the mass of the people. Nevertheless there was a large increase in the Mahomedan population in two provinces of India, widely apart from each other. In Western Punjab the

continual influx of Mahomedans swelled the ranks of the Moslem population. And in East Bengal millions of low-caste Hindus escaped the social degradation in which they were held by embracing the Moslem faith and thus seeking equality with the ruling race. And thus it follows that, up to the present day, the population of West Punjab and of East Bengal is largely Mahomedan, while in the rest of India the people are largely Hindus.

Many Hindu religious reformers flourished during the Pathan rule. Ramanuja, who lived in the twelfth century and belonged to Southern India, preached the unity of God ; and according to him love of god was the only way to salvation. Before his death he founded hundreds of Vaishnava monasteries in his native province. Fifth in apostolic succession from Ramanuja was Ramananda who preached the same noble doctrine in Northern India. He preached and wrote in Hindi, and as a result, the Hindi language was greatly improved. Kabir was a disciple of Ramananda. He, too, preached in Hindi. The great mission of his life was to unite Hindus and Mahomedans. "The city of the Hindu God," said he "is in the East (Benares), the city of the Musalman God is in the west (Mecca), but search your hearts, and there you will find the God both of Hindus and Musalmans." Nanak, who was born in the latter part of the fifteenth century, had the same object. His *Granth* is written in Punjabi, and his followers improved the Punjabi language. Almost contemporaneous with Nanak was Chaitanya who preached in Bengal the unity of God under the name of Vishnu. His followers improved the Bengali language considerably.

Many of the Pathan kings were patrons of art and learning. They beautified their capitals and chief cities with magnificent buildings, palaces, courts, and mosques. The Kutb Minar in Delhi, the Atala Mosque in Jaunpur, the Mosques at Gaur and Pandua are some of the architectural monuments erected by the Pathans. Minahjuddin the historian, Amir Khasru the poet, Ibn Batuta the traveller were among the more famous

literary men of the Pathan period, and all of them more or less enjoyed the patronage of the court. Amir Khasru composed his verses sometimes in Persian and sometimes in Hindi, the language of the people. And the Persian language which was the language of courts, was learnt by the upper classes of the Hindus as thoroughly as by Mahomedans.

## CHAPTER VIII. RISE OF MOGUL POWER.

A. D. 1526 to 1605.

BABER.

BABER was a Tartar and was the sixth in descent from Timur. But the dynasty which Baber founded in India is known as the Mogul dynasty, because the people of India call all the Northern Musalmans by the general name of Moguls.

In the year 1494, Baber, then only twelve years old, succeeded his father in the kingdom of Fergana, a small but rich and beautiful country on the upper course of the Jaxartes river. Three years after, he conquered Samarkand which was the capital of his ancestor Timur; but his triumph, however, was of short duration. He lost these places shortly after. Passing some time in poverty and distress, in unsuccessful attempts and strange adventures, Baber, at the early age of twenty-two crossed the Hindu Kush to try his fortune in the south.

Kabul was in a state of the utmost disorder at this time, and Baber occupied it almost without opposition in 1504, and reigned there for twenty-two years before he turned to India and won the battle of Panipat, as has been stated in the last chapter.

The position of Baber, even after the conquest of Delhi, was beset with difficulties. The chiefs were disaffected, and his own troops were discontented. With his accustomed vigour and perseverance, Baber surmounted all these difficulties, and his son, Humayun, soon brought all the revolted provinces, which had belonged to the House of Lodi, under subjection. Being now acknowledged as the Emperor of India by the Musalmans, Baber had to meet a great Hindu foe.

Rana Sanga, or Sangram Sinha, was the sixth in descent from Hamir, who had recovered Chitor in the in the reign of Alauddin Khilji. He ruled over Mewar, was acknowledged as the head of all Rajput chiefs, and had lately defeated and taken Mahmud, King of Malwa, prisoner. Being thus a rival of the King of Delhi in power, he had opened a friendly communication with Baber when he came to invade India. But now that Baber had secured himself on the throne of Delhi, Rana Sanga regarded him as his enemy, and probably aspired to establish a Hindu kingdom in that ancient capital.

War with Rana Sanga of Chitor.

In February, 1527, Rana Sanga advanced as far as Biana within fifty miles of Agra. Baber also advanced as far as Futehpur Sikri about twenty miles from Agra, and his advanced guard was beaten back by the Hindu army. Baber's army became disheartened and alarmed, and Baber was for a time dispirited. He tells us in his Memoirs that he, on this occasion, repented of his sins, forswore wine, and gave away gold and silver drinking-vessels to the poor, and he made a vow to let his beard grow and to remit the stamp-tax on all Musalmans if it should please God to give him victory. He appealed to the sense of honour of the veteran chiefs who had accompanied him through so many dangers, and they all took an oath on the Koran to conquer or to die.

The battle of Futehpur Sikri was fought with desperate valour on both sides. Baber's artillery, which was placed in the centre "hurled destruction," says Ferishta, "on all sides," and Baber himself, on perceiving a favourable opportunity, "charged with his personal guards, like a lion rushing from his lair, and, after an obstinate conflict, compelled the Indians to give way." Many Rajput chiefs were slain, and Rana Sanga escaped with the utmost difficulty from the field of battle. He made a vow to make the desert his home, and never to return to his kingdom, until he had retrieved his honour and defeated Baber. But history hears no more of the brave chief, and it is suspected that he was poisoned or slain by some of his own followers.

In the next year Baber marched against the fort of Chanderi

**Forts of Chan-  
deri and Rintam-  
bor.**

held by Medini Rai, a Rajput Chief. Baber's troops had mounted the walls, when the Rajputs put their women to death, and rushed

forth not to conquer, but to die. They drove back the Musulmans, leaped from the ramparts, and continued their charge unabated, until they were overpowered and destroyed to a man and the Musalmans then entered the empty fort. Baber put the fort in order; and Rintambor was made over to him by the second son of Rana Sanga.

**Conquest of  
Behar.**

Intelligence having been received of the defeat of his troops in the east by an Afghan chief, Baber immediately marched in that direction. He threw a bridge over the Ganges, crossed that river, and ultimately compelled the enemy to retire beyond the Gogra. Mahmud Lodi advanced as far as Benares with 100,000 men; but he retreated as Baber advanced, and all Behar was subjugated.

A strange story is narrated about Baber's death. It is said that Humayun fell seriously ill, and that Baber devoted himself to save his son. He walked three times round the bed of Humayun, spent some moments in prayer to God, and then exclaimed: "I have borne it away, I have borne it away. It is said that after that time Humayun recovered, and Babar fell ill and died in 1530.

**His character.**

The founder of the so-called Mogul Dynasty of India was an accomplished prince, and possessed many excellent virtues. He was genial in his disposition, and after all the trials and privations of a long and eventful life, he still retained the kind and affectionate heart, the natural candour, and the sociable temper of his early years. He has left us in his "Memoirs" a picture of his every-day life; he speaks of his mother, his relations and friends with the utmost affection and interest; he wept for the playmate of his boyhood; and he shed tears when a muskmelon was brought to him in India, and reminded him of his exile from his native land.

In the sterner qualities of a soldier, Baber was not wanting. Though not possessed of extraordinary military abilities, Baber was, nevertheless, brave in the field, almost rash in many of his daring exploits, persistent and tenacious in his endeavours. He passed through more vicissitudes of fortune than usually falls to the lot of kings and conquerors, and after every crushing defeat and fall, he surprises us by bolder exploits and fresh conquests. It is to be regretted that his long and eventful military career, and probably the example of Timur who was a model to him, hardened his heart towards his enemies. His behaviour, in places which resisted him, was as cruel as that of Timur; he often burnt towns to ashes and massacred all the garrison; and, in his "Memoirs" he speaks of more than one cruel and inhuman execution.

Baber was fond of wine, and speaks of many a convivial drinking-party in his "Memoirs." It is believed that his indulgence in wine shortened his days.

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### HUMAYUN.

Baber's second son, Kamran, was governor of Kabul and Kandahar, and as he showed no inclination to submit to his elder brother, Humayun thought it wise to give up to him those kingdoms as well as the Punjab, and retain the newly-conquered provinces of Northern India under his rule.

After quelling an insurrection at Jaunpur, and compelling Sher Khan of Behar to submit to him, Humayun turned his attention to Gujerat. Bahadur Shah, king of Gujerat, had conquered Malwa, and had received the homage of the kings of Khandesh, Berar and Ahmadnagar. This powerful prince gave shelter to a brother-in-law of Humayun who had been engaged in plots against his life, and also openly assisted a member of the old Lodi family to assemble an army and march against Humayun. Humayun defeated the army and then marched against Gujerat.

Conquest and  
loss of Gujerat.

Bahadur was at that time besieging Chitor, and it is said, Humayun allowed him time to take that stronghold of the Hindus. When Chitor fell, Bahadur marched against Humayun. The two armies met at Mandasor, but very little was effected for two months, except almost daily skirmishes. Pressed by famine, Bahadur at last left the intrenchments by night and fled to Mandu, and his army dispersed.

Humayun invested and took Mandu, and Bahadur continued his flight to Champanir, and thence to Cambay. Humayun still pursued him, and reached Cambay on the evening of the day on which Bahadur had quitted it for Diu in the most remote part of the Kathiawar Peninsula. Leaving him there, Humayun subjugated the open country of Gujerat, and appeared before Champanir. The hill-fort was scaled in the night by means of steel spikes fixed in an almost perpendicular rock by 300 chosen assailants, of whom Humayun was one.

Soon after taking Champanir, Humayun heard of the fresh insurrection of Sher Khan of Behar. He accordingly left for Agra at once, leaving his brother Mirza Askeri in charge of the new conquests. Dissensions ensued among his followers, and Bahadur Shah profited by these disorders, recovered the whole of Gujerat and Malwa without a blow.

Sher Khan was one of the many chiefs of Behar who had made their submission to Baber in 1529. But in the confusion which followed, this active chief made himself master of Behar and of the fort of Chunar. We have already stated that Humayun marched against him and received his submission, and left him in possession of Chunar before he went against Bahadur Shah of Gujerat. In Humayun's absence in Gujerat, Sher Khan again made himself master of Behar and invaded Bengal.

Humayun now once again marched against Sher Khan. He took Chunar after a siege of several months, and then proceeded to Bengal, where Sher Khan had already taken Gaur and made himself master of the province. Humayun took Gaur in his turn, but was unable to carry on operations

any further, as the Delta of the Ganges had in the rains become one vast sheet of water. When the rains were over, Sher Khan took possession of Behar and Benares, and recovered the fort of Chunar, so that Humayun was compelled to turn westwards to meet his agile enemy. The two armies met and intrenched themselves near Buxar, and thus remained for two months. At last Sher Khan with the choice of his army made a secret march one night to the rear of Humayun's position, and suddenly attacked the camp at daybreak. Resistance was hopeless, and Humayun and a vast number of his soldiers fled and plunged into the Ganges. It is said that 8,000 Musalmans were drowned, and Humayun himself owed his life to a water-carrier who crossed him over with the aid of his inflated skin. Thus saved, Humayun escaped to Agra, after the total destruction of his army, in 1539.

In the next year Humayun again turned against Sher Khan who had now advanced as far as Kanouj. Humayun was again defeated, and his army driven into the Ganges. Humayun himself crossed the stream on an elephant; but the opposite bank was too steep for the elephant to ascend, and Humayun would have perished in the stream if two soldiers had not tied their turbans together and thrown one end to him, so as to enable him to make good his landing.

All hopes of further resistance were given up, and Humayun after a reign of ten years, left Agra and Delhi in 1540, and went to his brother Kamran at Lahore. Kamran was not willing to receive him and so incur the displeasure of the conqueror; he even ceded the Punjab to Sher Khan and retired to Kabul.

The deserted Humayun now turned towards Sindh. His   
*Fate of* negotiations with the chief of that country were *Humayun.* fruitless, and he sought the protection of Maldeo (Malla Deva), Raja of Jodhpore and Marwar. After a march through the desert, during which he lost many followers from fatigue and thirst, he appeared before Jodhpore; but the Raja was not inclined to give him shelter, and the

unfortunate Humayun left the place and marched towards Amarkot. The journey through the desert was attended with indescribable sufferings from fatigue and thirst, and many of his followers perished. A body of Rajput horse pursued to chastise them for this intrusion into their territory, and Humayun and his small train were left completely at their mercy. The Rajputs had, however, no intention of destroying them ; Maldeo's son appeared with a white flag, and after reproaching them for entering his father's territories and having killed kine in a Hindu country, supplied them with water, and allowed them to proceed. After several more wearisome marches Humayun, with seven mounted attendants, at last reached Amarkot, and the straggling survivors gradually assembled at the place. Rana Prasad of Amarkot received the exiled monarch with respect and hospitality.

It was at Amarkot, and in the midst of these calamities, *Birth of Akbar.* that Akbar was born on the 14th October, 1542.

After another unsuccessful attempt on Sindh, Humayun went to Kandahar, which belonged to Kamran, and was held by his brother Askeri. Askeri tried to make Humayun prisoner, and the latter fled hastily leaving the infant Akbar at the mercy of his uncle. Humayun then went to Sistan, and was sent on to Herat to wait the orders of the king of Persia.

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### SUR DYNASTY.

Sher Shah's rule of five years was spent in extending his conquests and consolidating his rule by wise administration. He suppressed a rebellion in Bengal, and then divided the districts of the province among officers wholly independent of each other, so as to make further rebellion impossible. In the following year he conquered Malwa.

In the next year, 1543, he besieged the fort of Raisin ; Purna Malla, the chief, capitulated on terms by which Raisin. the garrison were permitted to march out with their arms and property. Sher Shah, however, obtained the opinion of a Mahomedan lawyer that it was not necessary to observe faith with infidels ; and, in contravention to the terms of capitulation, attacked the small band of Rajputs. The Rajputs fought with all the bravery of despair and perished to a man.

The king now turned against the Hindu princes of Rajputana. He attacked Marwar with 80,000 Jodhpore. men, and Maldeo of Jodhpore came to oppose him with 50,000 men. Sher Shah did not risk a battle with the brave Rajputs, but by the trick of letters written on purpose to be intercepted, he succeeded in exciting Maldeo's suspicions against his chiefs, and Maldeo accordingly commenced a retreat. Kumbhu, one of the Rajput chiefs who was thus wrongly suspected by Maldeo, declared to Maldeo "that such treachery was unprecedented among true Rajputs, and he determined to wash off the stain on their reputation with his blood or to subdue Sher Shah with his own tribe alone." With his band of 12,000 men he fell on Sher Shah with such impetuosity that he threw the camp into confusion and nearly defeated the Moslems. The Rajputs were, however, cut down to a man, and Sher Shah, thus narrowly escaping defeat, declared— alluding to the poverty of Marwar and its produce—that "for a handful of *jowar*, he had almost lost the empire of India."

Sher Shah then marched against Chitor which capitulated.

Chitor. After this, he went and laid siege to Kalinjer. The Raja of Kalinjer, remembering Sher Shah's treachery towards Purna Malla of Raisin, refused all terms, and prepared for hostilities. While Kalinjer : 1545. superintending the batteries, Sher Shah was involved in the explosion of a magazine ; he was dreadfully burnt and died the same evening.

Sher Shah was a ruler of great ability, prudence, and vigour. During his short reign he brought his territories into order, and introduced great improvements in civil government. Among the useful public works which he executed, the Grand Trunk Road from Bengal to the North-West remains to this day a monument of his far-sighted wisdom. Mosques and caravanserais and attendants of the proper castes, for Hindus as well as for Musalmans, were provided.

Jalal, the second son of Sher Shah, was raised to the throne, under the title of Salim Shah, and **Salim Shah Sur.** reigned for eight years, 1545 to 1553. Very few incidents mark his reign, but he had administrative ability, and, like his father, constructed works of public utility.

Salim's son was murdered by his uncle, Muhammad, who **Muhammad Adil Shah.** ascended the throne. He gave himself up to coarse debauchery, and committed the conduct of Government to a Hindu, named Hemu who had been a shop-keeper before, but who proved himself to be an able administrator and brave warrior. The proud Afghan chiefs chafed under this arrangement, and rebelled against the confiscation of their property, which the profligate king bestowed on his low-born favourites. Ibrahim Sur, a member of his family, seized on Delhi and Agra, and Sikandar Sur, another member of the family, proclaimed himself king in the Punjab, and eventually drove Ibrahim from Delhi and Agra. And to crown all this, the exile Humayun re-entered India, defeated Sikandar Sur, and took possession of Delhi and Agra.

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### HUMAYUN RESTORED

Humayun had taken shelter in Persia. The Persian Musalmans were Shias, and the Indian Musalmans were Sunnis, and Shah Tahmash, the king of Persia, forced Humayun to profess the Shia form of the religion. He then gave him an army of 4,000 men, with which Humayun conquered Kandahar in

1545. Humayun then took Kabul, and, in January 1555, set out from Kabul and invaded India. He defeated Sikandar Sur's governor and took possession of Lahore. Shortly after, he defeated Sikandar himself, and took Delhi and Agra.

Six months after his return to Delhi, Humayun had a fall from the stairs of his library which caused his immediate death in 1556. His mildness of character is extolled by historians, and he was certainly brave in war. But he had neither the prudence nor the ability of a general, his schemes were badly matured, and his movements were dilatory and feeble. Ferishta says that his indecision and dilatoriness were often caused by the excessive use of opium to which he was addicted. Treachery and cruelty were among his worst faults.

### AKBAR THE GREAT.

Akbar was the greatest of the Moslem kings who have ruled in India; and his reign of fifty years, 1556 to 1605, nearly corresponds in date with that of Queen Elizabeth, one of the greatest of English sovereigns.

The commencement of his reign was beset with difficulties.

**Defeat of Hemu.** Hemu, the Hindu general of the last Sur king  
**End of the Sur** **Dynasty.** Muhammad Adil Shah, still hoped to drive out  
 the Moguls and to keep India under the Sur dynasty. He quelled the rebellion in Bengal, and, leaving his royal master at Chunar marched against Agra and besieged and took that capital. The governor of Delhi, collected together the whole of the Mogul army, but Hemu defeated him in battle, took Delhi, and then marched towards Lahore, to expel young Akbar from the Punjab. Akbar's counsellors advised him to retreat to Kabul, but Bairam Khan, the general and friend of Humayun and the tutor of Akbar, wished to give battle to the enemy, and the voice of the spirited young Akbar, then in his fourteenth year, was in unison with the sentiments of Bairam, and decided the question.

The battle was fought at Paniput on the 5th November, 1556. Hemu fought with the utmost bravery in the very heart of the Mogul army, and though pierced through the eye with an arrow, he continued to fight with unabated courage. But the Moguls were victorious on every side, Hemu's army gave way, and Hemu was made a prisoner. Bairam desired Akbar to kill the infidel with his own hands, but he refused to hurt the brave and wounded foe. Bairam slew Hemu with his own sabre.

The hopes of Muhammad Shah Sur fell with Hemu. He continued to reign in the eastern provinces for some time longer, until he was killed in a battle with a new pretender in Bengal. Akbar took Delhi and Agra, and quelled a rebellion which Sikandar Sur had raised in the Punjab.

Bairam Khan's harsh and imperious temper disgusted all the nobles of the court. Akbar himself, now approaching his manhood, could scarcely brook the thraldom and sought to escape it. At last in 1560 he issued a proclamation that he had taken the government into his own hands, and forbade obedience to orders issued by any one else.

Bairam rebelled, and invaded the Punjab, but was defeated and forgiven. While preparing to leave India for Mecca, he was killed by an assassin, whose father he had slain in battle.

Akbar had taken Ajmir and Gwalior and Lucknow before the fall of Bairam. His general, Khan Zaman, beat back the son of the last Sur king who had advanced to recover the kingdom ; and another general, Adham Khan, conquered Malwa. But these generals were little inclined to show respect to a youth of Akbar's years. The young king, however, surmounted every difficulty by his energy and vigour. He subjugated Adham Khan and quelled all rebellions in Malwa ; and he marched to Oudh and Allahabad against Khan Zaman. Akbar drove him across the Ganges, and defeated him. After seven years of incessant toil, the young and vigorous monarch subjugated and pacified the whole country from the Indus to Behar,

Pacification of  
the country, 1560  
to 1567.

and as far as Malwa to the south. The subjugation of Gondwana is specially remarkable for the heroism of Durgavati, the queen of that province, and one of the most remarkable characters in Indian history. Abul Fazl tells us that she not only governed her vast dominions with ability, and carried on wars with her enemies with success, but that she was herself a good shot, frequently went out hunting, and brought down wild animals with her own gun. Durgavati fought valiantly but in vain against Akbar's army, and fell covered with glory. Ruins of the fort which she bravely defended are still pointed out near Jubbulpur, and her name is still remembered in the Central Provinces.

Having thus widened and consolidated his kingdom, Akbar now thought of more ambitious conquests. Among the Rajput princes, the Raja of Jaipur was on friendly terms with the Emperor of Delhi, and had given his daughter in marriage with Akbar. A grand-daughter of the Raja of Jodhpur was married to Akbar's son Salim. Chitor rejected all terms, and the Emperor turned his arms against Chitor.

Udai Sinha, the son of Rana Sanga, was a feeble prince, and fled into the hills and woods of the **War with Mewar.** Aravalli on the approach of Akbar, leaving Chitor in charge of the brave chief, Jai Malla. While the siege was going on, Akbar one night saw the brave and watchful Jai Malla superintending the repair of the breaches in the ramparts by torchlight. Akbar instantly fired, and shot the brave defender dead on the spot. The Rajputs then left the breaches undefended, withdrew within the fort, burnt their women, and then came forward to meet death at the hands of the Moslems, who had now mounted the ramparts unopposed. "Ten thousand Rajputs," says Ferishta, "were killed near their temples."

Udai Sinha lived and died independent in his fastnesses, and his son and successor Pratap Sinha, one of the noblest and greatest characters in Indian history, continued to maintain the independence of his people in the midst of unparalleled

hardships and privations. Pratap was defeated by the Emperor's son, Prince Salim, at Haldighata; several strong places were taken by the imperial troops under Man Sinha, the chief of Jaipur; and the hunted chief fled with his faithful tribe from rock to rock and from valley to fastness, and lived in the midst of perils, dangers and privations, still proud and unsubdued. His efforts and indomitable perseverance were finally crowned with success, and before the death of Akbar, the determined Rajput had beaten the Mogul troops at Dewir, recovered the open country of Mewar, and founded a new capital at Udaipur.

Akbar's next great enterprise was the conquest of Gujerat.

**Conquest of Gujerat.** Gujerat had been conquered by the vigorous Alauddin Khilji in 1297, but had risen in rebellion fifty years after in the reign of Muhammad Tughlak, and finally threw off the yoke of Delhi and became independent after another fifty years (1397), under Mozuffer Shah, on the eve of Timur's invasion of India. For nearly two centuries Gujerat remained independent, and Bahadur Shah of Gujerat conquered and annexed Malwa and reduced Chitor, and continued his reign after the fruitless invasion of Humayun, as we have seen already. After Bahadur's death, dissensions arose in Gujerat, and Akbar was invited to take possession of the province, and the nominal king formally ceded his crown to the Emperor of Delhi in 1572. But the country was not subjugated without great difficulty. At one time Akbar attacked 1,000 of the enemy with only 156 men, and was in great personal danger, but was saved by the faithfulness and bravery of Raja Bhagavan Sinha of Jaipur, and his nephew and adopted son, the celebrated Man Sinha. Raja Bhagavan Sinha's brother, too, "displayed on this day," says Ferishta, "the heroism of Roostoom and Isfundayar," and lost his life. Gujerat was eventually subjugated, and Akbar returned to Agra; but one of the insurgents returned again and raised the standard of rebellion. The rainy season had set in, but Akbar hastened to Gujerat with his usual celerity, and faced the enemy with 3,000 men on the ninth day from leaving

**Agra.** The leaders of the astonished insurgents were killed in action, and tranquillity was restored in Gujerat in 1573.

Akbar's next great conquest was Bengal. That province had been conquered by Kutbuddin's lieutenant, Bakhtiyar Khilji, in 1204, and had remained under Delhi for over a century. But in the reign of Muhammad Tughlak it rose in rebellion under a Mahomedan chief about 1340, and remained independent for two centuries from that date. Among the independent kings of Bengal we find one Hindu name—that of Raja Ganesa, who reigned from 1386 to 1392. His son succeeded him but embraced the Moslem faith.

During the rule of the Sur Dynasty in Delhi, Bengal remained united to Delhi, but the connection was severed on the restoration of Humayun. Akbar now sought to bring the province once more under the rule of Delhi, and advanced to Behar in 1575. Daud Khan, the Afghan king, retired into Bengal, and Akbar left instructions with his general to pursue the conquest and returned to Agra.

Munayim Khan and Todar Malla, Akbar's generals, pursued Daud Khan into Orissa, and Daud was defeated in a great battle. He surrendered Behar and Bengal to Akbar and was allowed to retain Orissa and Cuttack. On Munayim's death, Daud Khan rose in rebellion and recovered a part of Bengal, but the imperial general attacked him, and the battle terminated in Daud's defeat and death.

There was a rebellion of the Mogul Jaigirdars in Bengal and Behar in 1580, and Todar Malla was sent to quell it. He had great influence with local zemindars, and succeeded in breaking down the Mogul combination, and in reconquering Bengal. Todar Malla's successor completed the conquest.

Once more the Afghans rose in rebellion under Katlu Khan and made themselves masters of Orissa and part of Bengal, as far as the Damodar river. Raja Man Sinha of Jaipur was sent to subjugate the rebels. A large detachment of his army, under his son Jagat Sinha, was defeated by the Afghans, and Jagat Sinha was taken prisoner. But Katlu

Khan died soon after in 1590, and a peace was concluded, by which the Afghans evacuated Bengal and were allowed to retain Orissa under the Emperor of Delhi. Man Sinha once more visited Bengal in 1592, defeated the Afghans on the borders of Orissa, and finally reduced them to submission.

Akbar's brother, Mirza Hakim, was unwise enough to <sup>Annexation of</sup> invade India once in 1566, but was repulsed by Kabul. Akbar. Since then he remained in undisturbed possession of Kabul for fifteen years, but in 1581 he again invaded the Punjab. Raja Man Sinha, the Governor of the Punjab, retired to Lahore which was invested by Hakim. Akbar immediately marched against his brother, and Mirza Hakim raised the siege and retreated to his own dominions. Akbar followed him and took possession of Kabul without opposition. The repentent Hakim now asked forgiveness, and Akbar generously restored to him the government of Kabul. On his return to India Akbar ordered a fort to be built on the Indus which he called Attock.

Mirza Hakim died in 1585, and Kabul, therefore, came <sup>The Yusufzais.</sup> under the direct rule of Akbar, and Man Sinha was sent as Governor of Kabul. The plains to the north of Peshawar, bounded by the Hindu Kush on the north, were in possession of Afghan mountain tribes, the Yusufzais and others, who occasionally gave trouble. Akbar sent his foster-brother, Zein Khan, and his greatest personal favourite, Bir Bal, to quell these tribes. The expedition ended in disaster. Bir Bal and his troops were cut down by the mountaineers among the hills, and Zein Khan made a precipitate retreat, pursued by the enemy as far as the Indus. Todar Malla and Man Sinha then occupied some fortified places in the country and thus kept the Yusufzais in check, and reduced them to some kind of submission.

A far more profitable conquest was that of Kashmir. We <sup>Conquest of</sup> have narrated its earlier history in previous chapters, and the kingdom remained under Hindu rule until the beginning of the four-

teenth century, when it fell into the hands of a Mahomedan adventurer. The early Mahomedans exercised great cruelties in these secluded highlands, and the majority of the people were forced to embrace the Moslem religion.

In 1585, Shah Rokh Mirzi and Raja Bhagavan Das were sent to conquer this delightful hill-country. The progress of the army was retarded by snow, but the chiefs succeeded in penetrating into the valley, and concluded a treaty with the local king, by which he acknowledged the supremacy of Akbar. Akbar was not pleased with the treaty, and he sent another army in 1587. Kashmir was completely subjugated, and the local king retreated as a Jaigirdar to Behar. Kashmir thenceforth became the summer retreat of the emperors of Delhi.

Akbar's next conquest was Sindh. After the retreat of Conquest of Kasim, the Rajputs recovered portions of Sindh. Sindh, though the Arabs are said to have held portions of it till the tenth century after Christ. Other tribes of Rajputs and Musalmans succeeded and a new family of Musalman adventurers had now the supreme power in Sindh. Akbar conquered the province without much difficulty in 1592, and the ruling prince was, according to Akbar's custom and policy, honoured as one of the nobles of the Empire.

Kandahar fell into the hands of Akbar in 1594, and the Complete Settlement of Northern India. Emperor now held peaceful sway over the whole of Northern India and Afganistan, from Kandahar to Bengal. The Rana of Udaipur, the valiant Pratap Sinha, still remained unsubdued, but the other Rajput chiefs became active and attached adherents of Akbar, and supported his throne by troops drawn from their own hereditary dominions. Thus the enlightened and conciliatory policy of Akbar towards Hindu chiefs strengthened his power; and the undisputed master of Northern India now tried to subjugate the Deccan, as Alauddin Khilji had done, three hundred years before.

The Deccan was first conquered by the Musalmans in the reign of Alauddin Khilji, and the Hindu kings of Warangal and Deoghar had con-

sented to pay tribute to Delhi. But the whole of the country south of the Nurbudda was lost, after about fifty years, in the reign of Muhammad Tughlak; and two new kingdoms were formed *viz.*, new Hindu kingdom of Vijayanagar, and the Mahomedan kingdom of the Bahmanis.

About the close of the fifteenth and the beginning of the sixteenth century, three new Mahomedan kingdoms arose out of the ruins of the Bahmani kingdom of the Deccan. The new kingdoms were Ahmadnagar, Bijapur and Golkonda. There were frequent wars between these kingdoms and the Hindu House of Vijayanagar, and at last the three Musalman powers combined and defeated Ram Raja, the last king of the Vijayanagar House, in the battle of Telikota, in 1565, *i. e.*, in the tenth year of Akbar's rule in Northern India. The old Raja was put to death, and the monarchy of Vijayanagar was extinguished. The country, however, south of the Krishna river, still remained in the hands of the Hindus,—petty princes, Nayaks, Zemindars and Polygars.

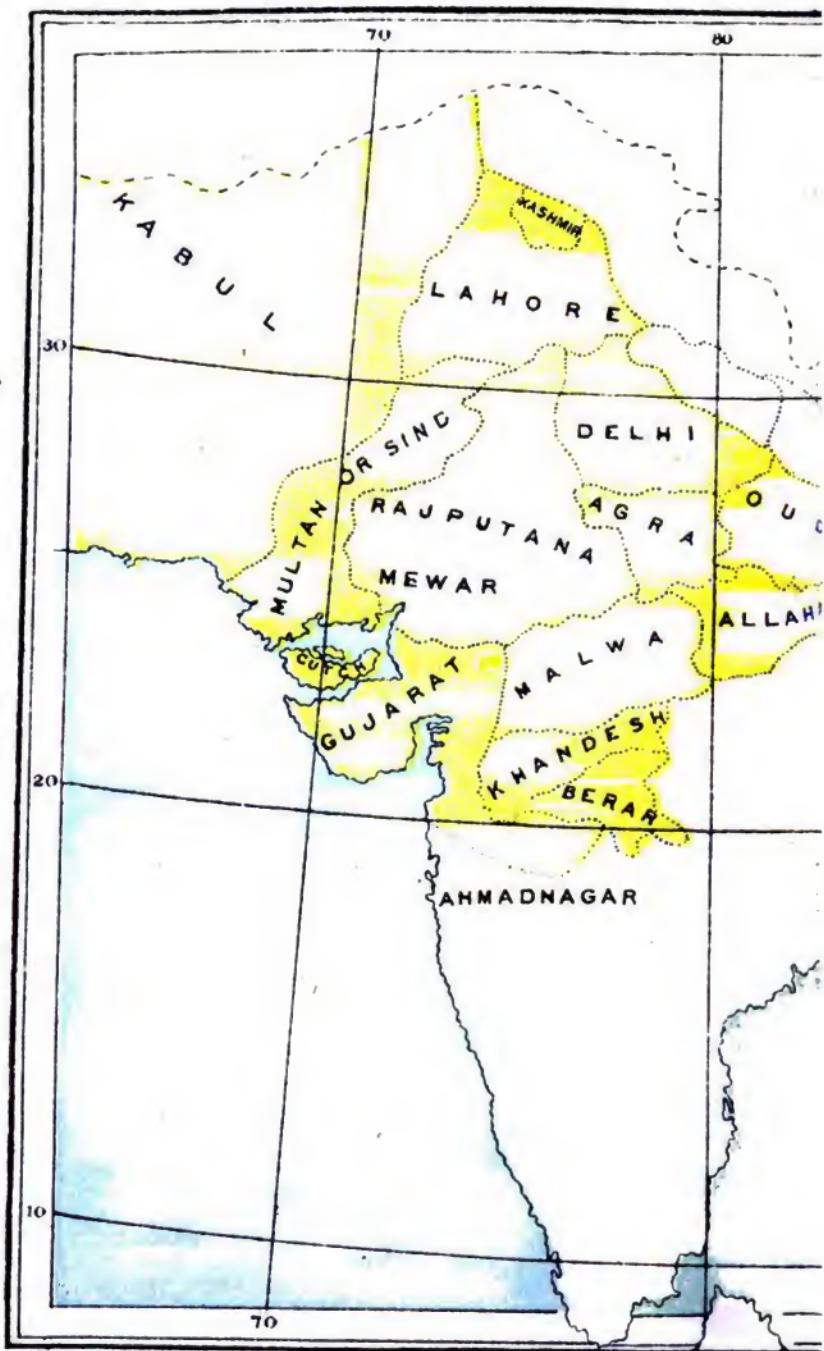
Thirty years after this event, Akbar took steps to conquer Southern India. Dissensions having broken out in Ahmadnagar, a Mogul army was sent to conquer the place. The brave regent Chand Sultana, aunt of the infant king, made noble efforts to resist the Moguls, and appeared on the ramparts in full armour and with drawn sword to repel the invaders. Her example, courage, and patriotism inspired the garrison with new valour, and the Moguls were obliged to withdraw.

Fresh dissensions, however, broke out soon after; Chand Sultana was killed by her own soldiers, and Conquest of Ahmadnagar. Ahmadnagar was taken in 1600. Khandesh and Berar were annexed shortly after.

The last years of Akbar were made miserable by the misconduct and undutiful behaviour of his sons. Last years of Akbar. His eldest son Salim (afterwards Emperor Jahangir) openly rebelled against his father, was pardoned, and continued in his life of cruelty and ingratitude, and excessive indulgence in wine and opium.

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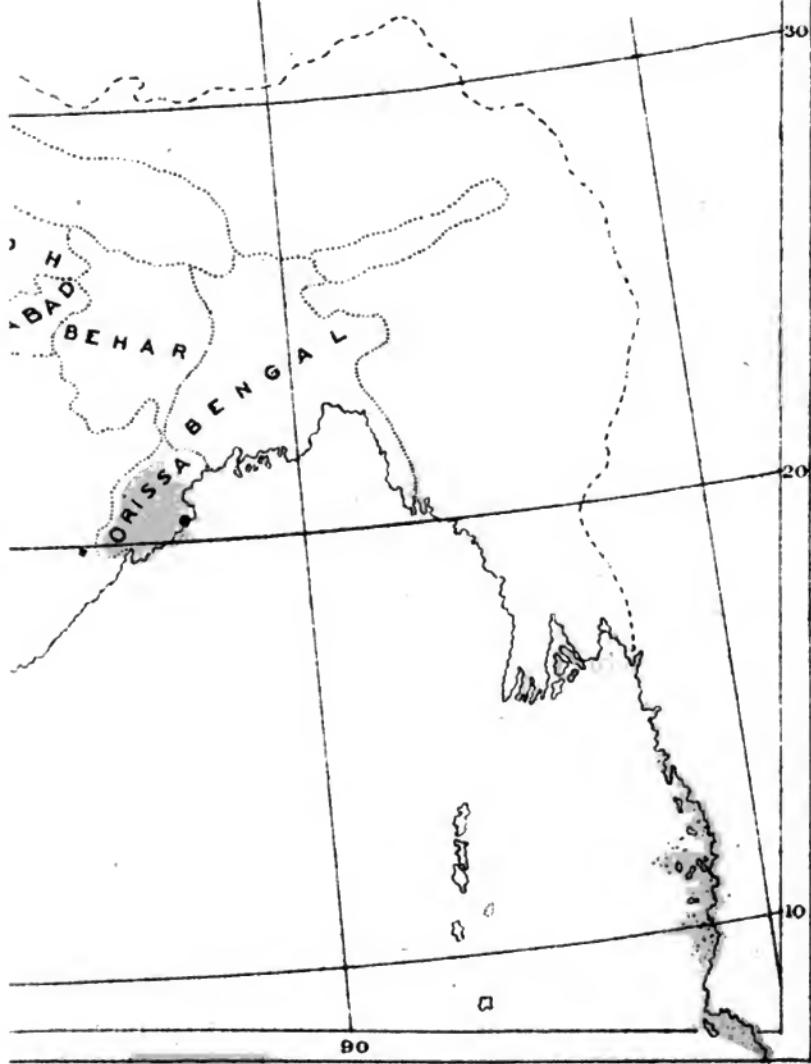
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# INDIA

SHOWING THE EXTENSION OF AKBARSEMPIRE

Specially for—  
Mr R.C. Dutt's Brief History of  
ANCIENT & MODERN INDIA.



80, MUKTARAM BABU'S ST



Salim's wife (Raja Man Sinha's sister) died by swallowing opium, and Abul Fazal, the favourite minister of Akbar and his able historian, was waylaid and killed by a Raja of Bandelkand on the instigation of Salim. Akbar's second son Murad, who had vainly attempted to take Ahmadnagar from Chand Sultana, died in 1599. Akbar's third son, Daniel, was married with great pomp to the young princess of Bijapur in 1604 ; but he was unworthy of his beauteous bride, and died of hard drinking in the following year. We mention the incident of the marriage, because the historian Ferishta, who was in the service of the Bijapur House, accompanied the princess to Daniel's camp, and also went with Daniel to Burhanpur where the prince died. Ferishta's history of Hindustan ends with the reign of Akbar.

Overcome by these misfortunes Akbar the Great died in His death and 1605. He was the greatest Moslem ruler that character. ever ruled in India, and one of the wisest and noblest sovereigns that the world has ever seen. His bravery in war was remarkable, and he seemed indeed to be stimulated by an instinctive love of danger. His wonderful activity, his inexhaustible energy, and his great power of endurance were equally remarkable, and he has justly been called the real founder of the great Mogul Empire. His administrative talents were also of a high order, and with the aid of Musalman and Hindu ministers he organised a perfect system of administration, and settled the land revenue of his great empire after a careful survey. And, lastly, he was enlightened and tolerant and catholic in his views ; he conciliated the Rajput chiefs by his generous behaviour ; he abolished the invidious tax of Jiziah on the Hindus and the tax on pilgrimages ; he appreciated what was good and noble in all races and in all religions ; and he caused Sanskrit works on Arithmetic and Algebra, and portions of the Sanskrit Epics as well as of the Bible to be translated into Persian. Abul Fazl informs us, that Akbar also prohibited the custom of making prisoners of war, and of reducing the wives and children of rebels into slavery. "For if the husband pursues an evil course, what fault is it of the wife ? and if the father rebels, how can the children be blamed ?"

The brothers, Feizi, and Abul Fazl, were the most learned men in Akbar's court and his inseparable companions. The latter has written the *Akbar-nama*, a history of Akbar, and the *Ayin-i-Akbari* a statistical account of the country. Tan Sen was a celebrated musical composer, and Raja Bir Bal was a personal favourite who amused the emperor with his conversation and wit. Raja Man Sinha helped the Emperor in his conquests from Kabul to Bengal, and Raja Todar Malla made the famous revenue settlement of the Empire.

In religion, Akbar the Great was a pure Deist, but he was anxious to learn the doctrines of all religions. Sunnis, Shias, Brahmins, Jains, Buddhists, Charbaks or Hindu sceptics, Christians, Jews, Parsees and men of every belief were gathered together, says Abul Fazl, in the court. Akbar sat up whole nights to hear controversies between divines of different persuasions ; he associated with Hindu Yogins to know their practices ; and he honoured Christian missionaries and the images of Jesus Christ and the Virgin which were shown to him. He forbade child-marriage, permitted widow-marriage, and sternly prohibited the burning of widows against their wishes. Once when he heard that the Raja of Jodhpur was about to force his son's widow to mount the funeral pyre, he mounted his horse and rode with speed to the place, and prevented the barbarous sacrifice. The innate greatness and genius of Akbar will appear all the more striking when it is remembered that he owed little to education. It is a remarkable fact that some of the greatest names in modern Indian History, like Alauddin, Akbar, Sivaji, Haider Ali and Ranjit Sinha are names of men more or less illiterate.

Akbar divided his empire into fifteen subahs or provinces, namely, Delhi, Agra, Kabul, Lahore, Multan, Ajmir, Gujerat, Malwa, Oudh, Allahabad, Behar, Bengal, Khandesh, Berar, and Ahmadnagar. A viceroy or chief officer was appointed to each province, and under him were the Dewans or revenue authorities, and the Foujdars or military commanders. Kazis administered justice and Kotwals superintended the Police

in all towns, while village communities had an organization of their own in villages to keep the peace and repress crime.

A careful revenue survey of his empire was made by Akbar, and the proceeds of the assessment from his fifteen Subahs came to nearly fifteen Krores of Rupees—an excessively heavy assessment if it was ever fully realized.

## CHAPTER IX.

MOGUL ASCENDENCY,

A. D. 1605 to 1707.

JAHANGIR.

SALIM now ascended the throne under the title of Jahangir. Unlike his father, Jahangir was a cruel prince and he was too much addicted to wine to look after the affairs of the State.

Khasru, the eldest son of Jahangir, was never liked by his father, and rose in rebellion and took the city of Lahore. He was, however, completely defeated by the royal troops and brought as a captive to his father. Jahangir punished the rebels with barbarous cruelty, and Khasru was kept in captivity for years.

Rebellion of Khasru quelled.

**Nur Jahan.**—The story of Nur Jahan brings to light some traits of Jahangir's character. She was the daughter of a Persian, named Mirza Ghyas, and used often to come to Akbar's harem with her mother. Jahangir saw her and was attracted by her beauty, and desired to marry her. Akbar refused his consent, and gave the beauteous girl in marriage with one Sher Afghan, and sent him away to Bengal where he bestowed on him a Jagir.

When Jahangir became emperor, he sent his foster-brother Kutbuddin as governor of Bengal with orders to obtain the wife of Sher Afghan for the imperial harem. Sher Afghan refused to give up his wife, and killed Kutbuddin on the spot and was himself despatched by Kutb's attendants. The spot where this tragic event took place is still pointed out in Burdwan.

Nur Jahan was taken to Delhi, but refused for a time to wed the man whom she looked upon as her husband's murderer. After a while, however, Nur Jahan forgot her resentment, and her marriage with the emperor was celebrated with great pomp. Being an artful and spirited woman,



NUR JAHAN.

she soon managed to obtain the supreme power in the empire. Her weak husband was henceforward merely a 'tool in her hands.

All Rajputana had owned the supremacy of Akbar except Mewar. But the high spirited Pratap was now dead, and his son, Amar Sinha, was unable to cope with the imperial troops.

Submission of Mewar. Prince Khurm (afterwards Emperor Shah Jahan) went with 20,000 troops to Mewar, and the Rana was compelled to sue for peace in 1614. Prince Khurm received his homage, but following the wise and conciliatory policy of Akbar, left him

ruler of the country, and restored to him all the country which had been conquered since the invasion of Akbar.

The affairs of the Emperor in the Deccan met with ill success. The Abyssinian minister of Ahmadnagar, named Malik Ambar recovered that place from the Moguls, and compelled the imperial troops to retire in 1610. A second army, sent by Jahangir, two years after, was equally unsuccessful, and Malik Ambar remained master of Ahmadnagar.

Prince Khurm was now sent to the Deccan and achieved complete success in 1617. He broke the confederacy formed by Malik Ambar, and that chief was compelled to restore Ahmadnagar and all the territory which he had conquered from the Moguls. Malik Ambar rebelled once more a few years after, but was defeated by prince Khurm, and submitted.

Prince Khurm's influence in court was supported by the all powerful Nur Jahan, whose niece he had married. But the great reputation he had won in Mewar and in the Deccan aroused her jealousy; and she now endeavoured to supplant him by a weaker prince who would continue to be under her influence. She gave her daughter (by Sher Afghan) in marriage to the Emperor's youngest son Shahriyar; she caused a great part of the army of Khurm to be placed under this young prince; and the jaigirs of Khurm in Northern India were also transferred to Shahriyar.

Prince Khurm rose against his father; but the artful Nur Jahan caused Muhabat Khan, a rising and able general, to be sent against the prince, and the latter was compelled to flee to the Deccan and thence to Masalipatam. From there he came to Bengal and obtained possession of that province and Behar, but Muhabat defeated him in battle and the prince again fled to the Deccan. Unable to effect any thing there, he at last surrendered himself to the mercy of his father, and the triumph of Nur Jahan was complete.

Muhabat Khan had gained great reputation and power in these transactions, and had in his turn awakened the jealousy of Nur Jahan who was now determined to quell him. Muhabat was summoned to court to answer charges of oppression and embezzlement. Jahangir was at the time encamped on the Hydaspis on his way to Kabul and most of his army had crossed over. Muhabat suddenly surrounded the Emperor's camp and took him prisoner.

The spirited Nur Jahan crossed over to the army in disguise, and endeavoured the next morning to cross back with the troops and recover her husband. She was among the foremost on her elephant, trying to cross in the midst of a shower of balls and arrows. The infant daughter of Shahriyar, who was on her lap, was wounded, her driver was killed, and the elephant dashed into deep water and swam back to the other shore with difficulty. The attempt to cross the river with the army and to recover Jahangir failed.

The artful Nur Jahan now came and joined her husband in his captivity. She gradually enlisted men and formed a strong party and proposing to take him to see a review of troops rescued him from Muhabat's power. Muhabat was no longer the master of the situation, and was ordered to proceed to the Deccan against Prince Khurm. Thus Nur Jahan's triumph was once more complete.

But Jahangir died the same year, 1626, and Nur Jahan's great influence ended with the life of her husband. She had assumed the imperial power both in reality and in form during her husband's reign. It was a custom with Mogul emperors to show themselves from a *Charoka*, or lattice of the palace, to the people below; but in the latter part of Jahangir's reign, Nur Jahan used to sit at the *Charoka*, received the salutations of the nobles, and issued her commands. Coins were struck in her name, the royal seal bore her signature, and the Emperor became a willing tool in her hands. "Nur Jahan," he used to say, "is wise enough to conduct the matters of state, I want only a bottle of wine and piece of meat to keep myself merry."

Jahangir's reign saw the beginning of the trading operations of the English in India. The East India Company who had received their charter from Queen Elizabeth for trading with India and the neighbouring islands, and had hitherto confined themselves to the Indian Archipelago, now established factories at Surat, Cambay, and Ahmednagar.

**Sir Thomas Roe.** In 1615, Sir Thomas Roe was sent by King James I of England as an ambassador to Jahangir's Court. He remained in India for about three years and secured many valuable concessions for his countrymen. Sir Thomas has left an interesting account of his experiences in India from which much valuable information is obtained about the state of the country at the time.

### SHAH JAHAN.

Prince Khurm now ascended the throne under the name of Shah Jahan, and he commenced his reign by acts of inhumanity. Khasru, his elder brother, had already been murdered under his instigation five years before. Shahriyar, who made an attempt to ascend the throne, was defeated and was afterwards put to death by his orders. The two sons of prince Daniel (Akbar's son), who had sided with Shahriyar, were also put to death. All possible claimants to the throne were thus removed.

In the Deccan, Khan Jahan Lodi, an officer under the Mogul Emperor, had made peace with Malik Ambar and given up the whole of the Ahmednagar territory to the enemies. Shah Jahan pursued him into the Deccan, and Khan Jahan ultimately fled to Bandelkand where he was killed.

The last endeavours to maintain the independence of Ahmednagar were made by a Hindu chief. Shahji Bhonsla (father of the famous Sivaji) had served under Malik Ambar and had distinguished himself in the recent wars; and he now set up a fresh king and tried to maintain the independence of Ahmednagar. The Emperor returned to the Deccan,

**Final Subjugation of Ahmednagar.**

and Shahji was compelled to give up the pretended king, and entered into the service of the king of Bijapur.

Thus the kingdom of Ahmadnagar, the partial conquest of which was first effected by Akbar, was extinguished for ever, and the kings of Bijapur and Golkonda also consented to pay annual tributes to the Emperor, 1636.

An obstinate attempt was made by the Emperor to conquer **Loss of Balkh and Kandahar.** Balkh. Heroic efforts were made by the Rajputs under Jagat Sinha, and they stormed mountain passes and repelled the fierce attacks of the Uzbeks. Princes Murad and Aurangzeb were then successively sent to achieve the conquest. It was found impossible, however, to retain the place. Aurangzeb at last retreated from the country, and the idea of its subjugation was prudently abandoned.

Kandahar, which had been recovered by Shah Jahan, was taken by the Persians in 1648. Aurangzeb was twice sent to recover it, and Dara, the Emperor's eldest son, then went with a large army with the same object. But all attempts failed, and Kandahar was thus permanently lost to India.

The kings of Bijapur and Golkonda had remained true to **Golkonda and Bijapur.** the promise of payment of tribute to the Emperor and had given no reasonable cause of offence. But the intriguing and ambitious Aurangzeb, nevertheless, obtained his father's permission to proceed against Golkonda, and suddenly appeared in arms before Haidarabad, the capital of that kingdom. Haidarabad was plundered and partly burnt, and the hillfort of Golkonda was invested. The king, finding resistance hopeless, consented to the severe terms imposed by Aurangzeb. The king's daughter was married to Aurangzeb's son, Sultan Mahmud. Mir Jumla, who was the cause of this war, remained under Aurangzeb, and eventually distinguished himself in his service.

The turn of Bijapur came next. Aurangzeb invaded that territory, took the strong fort of Bidar, and compelled the king to sue for peace on humiliating terms. These offers were

accepted and peace concluded, as Aurangzeb's attention was now called to more important matters in the north.

A sudden illness of Emperor Shah Jahan in 1657, led to a scramble among his sons for the throne. *Illness of Shah Jahan; dissension among his sons.*

Dara, the eldest, was frank and highspirited, but imperious and impatient of opposition. Shuja, the second son, was given up to wine and pleasure. Aurangzeb, the third, was a perfect contrast to Dara; he was cold and designing, artful and distrustful, but was the ablest among the brothers. He professed himself a devout Musalman, and rigidly conformed to the forms of that religion. Murad, the youngest, was bold and generous, but dull in his intellect and vulgar in his pursuits.

Dara was in Agra, and transacted much of the work of administration as heir-apparent, and he meant to keep the the throne to himself. Shuja marched from Bengal with his army, but was beaten by the imperial force under prince Sulaiman (Dara's son) and the able Jai Sinha of Jaipur. Murad was marching from Gujerat. The artful Aurangzeb joined Murad, congratulated that prince on his assuming the imperial title, declared his own intention not to "take any part in the government of this deceitful and unstable world, but to make the pilgrimage to the temple of God," and appeared only to be zealous to further the interests and ambition of Murad. Murad was easily deceived; and the combined troops fell on the imperial army, which had come to oppose them at Ujjayini. The Musalman troops of the imperial army scarcely took any part in the battle, but Jaswant Sinha, the Raja of Jodhpur, and his gallant Rajputs bravely contested the battle, and were at last beaten after great slaughter.

Jaswant Sinha retired in disorder to Jodhpur, but his proud queen for a time refused the vanquished chief admittance into the fort, declaring that her husband must have fallen in the field of battle, and would not retreat, defeated and disgraced.

Dara now went out himself to meet his brothers, and a desperate battle was fought at Samaghar not far from Agra.

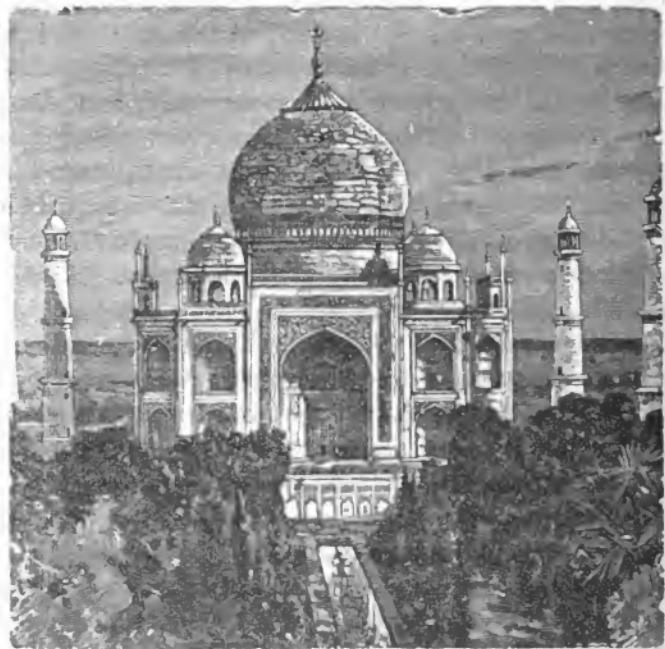
Dara's Rajputs fought with their accustomed valour. He broke through the centre of the enemy and carried all before him ; but Aurangzeb remained unshaken until Murad could come to his aid. In the meantime, Dara's elephant being wounded, he changed it for a horse ; his army lost sight of him and a panic ensued ; and the whole of the gallant army was put to flight. After this narrow deliverance, Aurangzeb saluted his brother Murad, congratulated him on his acquisition of the empire, and " wiped away," says Khafi Khan, " the tears and blood from his brother's cheek with the sleeve of condolence," and that simple prince never doubted Aurangzeb's sincerity.

Three days after the battle, Aurangzeb and Murad entered Agra. The old Shah Jahan was confined in his palace. Murad was now of no further use ; and Aurangzeb accordingly invited him one day to supper, plied him with drink, and then stripped him of his arms, cast him into chains, and ultimately sent him as a prisoner to Gwalior. Dara had fled to Delhi and thence towards Lahore, and Shuja had gone to Bengal. Aurangzeb became the Emperor of India.

Khafi Khan, who was the best historian of the times subsequent to those described by Ferishta, records his opinion, that although Akbar was pre-eminent as a conqueror and law-giver, Shah Jahan surpassed him as an administrator. The French traveller, Tavernier, also commends the strictness of Shah Jahan's civil government and the security enjoyed by the people. There can be little doubt that Shah Jahan was an able ruler and a careful and strict administrator. But the murder of his relations, by which he cleared his way to the throne, throws a dark stain on his character, and his cruel example was but too faithfully followed by his son and successor. Shah Jahan was also wanting in those attributes of a liberal and a great mind, which mark Akbar alone among the Mogul emperors. So far from imitating Akbar's catholic virtues, Shah Jahan issued an

order, as we are informed by his historian, the author of *Badsha Nama*, for the destruction of all Hindu temples which had been begun throughout his dominion. This, too, was a bad example which his successor faithfully followed.

Shah Jahan stands pre-eminent, even among the Mogul emperors, as a builder of splendid edifices. He founded the new city of Delhi, he constructed its fortified Palace, its Moti Musjid, its Dewan-i-Khas, and its magnificent Jumma Musjid. He also constructed the celebrated Peacock Throne, which is said to have cost over six millions sterling. Nobler than all these is the Taj Mahal in Agra, built over



TAJ MAHAL.

the tomb of his queen Mumtaj Mahal (Nur Jahan's niece), "which for the richness of the material, the chasteness of the design, and the effect, at once brilliant and solemn, is not surpassed," says Elphinstone, "by any other edifice either in Europe or in Asia."

## AURANGZEB.

After his defeat at Benares, Shuja had fled to Bengal; but **Defeat and death of Shuja.** he now advanced with a fresh army to contest the throne. Aurangzeb marched against him, and a battle was fought near Allahabad in which Shuja was defeated. Shuja again fled towards Bengal, and Aurangzeb sent his son, and his general, Mir Jumla, in pursuit. The unfortunate Shuja was compelled to take shelter, first in Monghyr and then in Rajmahal, in the rains. After a series of unsuccessful struggles, he had to fall back on Dacca, and then went to Arracan, and the story of his death is obscure.

Dara had fled from Delhi to Lahore, and left that city for **Defeat and execution of Dara.** Sindh on the advance of Aurangzeb. He occupied Gujrat, and tried to form a junction with Jaswant Sinha of Jodhpur. The artful Aurangzeb, however, won over his mortal enemy, Jaswant Sinha; and Dara had to face his brother near Ajmir without Jaswant's support. Dara was once more defeated: he fled to Gujrat but found no shelter there, and was soon after betrayed by a petty chief and delivered to Aurangzeb.

The unfortunate prince was loaded with chains, placed on a sorry elephant and thus taken through the populous streets of Delhi; and a few days after this public indignity, he was executed. Dara's sons were sent as prisoners to Gwalior, and are supposed to have been killed by order of the Emperor within a short time.

The brave Murad, who had helped Aurangzeb in winning **Execution of Murad.** two battles on his way to Agra, and the imperial throne, was now a prisoner in Gwalior. He attempted to escape but was discovered. Aurangzeb wished for his death, and on the complaint of a man whom Aurangzeb had himself instigated, the unfortunate Murad was executed in his prison.

**Rise of the Mahrattas.**—While Aurangzeb was thus securing his throne in the north, a new power had arisen in the south. The Mahrattas were a powerful and sturdy race when

Houen Tsang visited India in the seventh century, *i. e.*, a thousand years before the time of which we are now speaking. Under the Chalukya kings they had defied the power of Siladitya II., Emperor of Kanouj, in the seventh century, and had remained supreme in the Deccan down to the twelfth. The Chalukya House then disappeared, and the supreme power in the Deccan was held, first by the Hindu Kings of Deoghar, then by the Bahmani Dynasty, and lastly, by the three Moslem kingdoms of Ahmadnagar, Bijapur and Golkonda.

It has been already mentioned that the Mahratta chief, Shahji, had tried to keep up the independence of the Ahmadnagar House, but was compelled to give up the endeavour, and to take service under Bijapur, when Ahmadnagar was finally conquered by Shah Jahan in 1636.

Shahji's second son, Sivaji, born in May 1627, was then a boy of nine years, and was receiving his education in horsemanship, hunting and military exercises in Puna, where Shahji held a jaigir. As the boy grew up, he mixed with his father's Mahratta soldiers and the sturdier highlanders of the Western Ghats, and was concerned in wild adventures in the Concan. Hardened and emboldened by these expeditions, he at last surprised the hill-fort of Torna, southwest of Puna, and belonging to the Bijapur kingdom, in 1646. And in the next year, he obtained possession of the more important forts of Singhar and Purandar, south and southeast of Puna.

More daring exploits were performed in the following year, and Sivaji openly threw off the mask of subinission to Bijapur. He plundered a convoy of royal treasure, took a large number of hill-forts, and obtained possession of Kalyan, the ancient capital of the Western Chalukyas, with all the country attached to it. And being devotedly attached to the faith of his fathers, he revived Hindu institutions and restored Hindu endowments in his new possessions.

The court of Bijapur was now seriously alarmed, and cast Shahji into a dungeon for the sins of his son, and threatened

his execution. Sivaji appealed to the Emperor Shah Jahan, who received his overtures favourably, and appointed him to the rank of a commander of 5,000, and caused Shahji to be released from his dungeon.

For ten years, 1649 to 1659, Sivaji continued his career of conquests from the Bijapur kingdom, and became master of the whole of the hilly country south of Puna, as far as the Krishna river. At last in 1659, an army was sent from Bijapur under Afzal Khan to quell this turbulent and formidable enemy. Sivaji pretended great alarm, offered his submission, and asked for personal interview, which was granted. Afzal came forward with a single attendant to meet the Mahratta, and Sivaji too came with a single attendant. What followed is differently narrated by different writers. By one account, Sivaji treacherously attacked Afzal Khan; while by another account, which is more probable, a dispute arose between the two chiefs, and Sivaji attacked his foe in fair fight. Afzal was killed; and his army taken by surprise, was dispersed.

A second army was sent in the following year, and the king of Bijapur himself took the field in 1661, and conquered much of Sivaji's possessions. But his attention was now called to the Karnatic, and Sivaji soon recovered and increased his possessions. A peace was then concluded in 1662, by which Sivaji was left in possession of the entire territory from Puna to the Krishna in the south, with a breadth of nearly a hundred miles from the sea.

After the conclusion of this peace with Bijapur, Sivaji ravaged the country of the Moguls nearly as far as Deoghar (now called Aurangabad after Aurangzeb) and Aurangzeb sent Shaesta Khan with a large army against the bold invader in 1663. Shaesta Khan encamped at Puna, and himself occupied the very house in which Sivaji had passed his early boyhood, while Sivaji retired to the fort of Singhar, 12 miles to the south. One evening, after dark, Sivaji stole into the town with some of his soldiers, and entered the house in which Shaesta Khan was stopping. That chief escaped through a window, his son

and attendants were killed, and the surprise was complete. Soon after he was recalled by Aurangzeb.

Jaswant Sinha of Jodhpur was sent to the Deccan, and prince Muazzim was deputed to his assistance. They could, however, effect very little against Sivaji ; while that adventurous chief suddenly pounced upon the flourishing and defenceless Mogul town of Surat, plundered it for six days, and carried off an ample booty in 1664. It was in this year that Sivaji heard of the death of his father ; he now boldly assumed the dignity and marks of an independent King and coined money in his own name.

A great general was, however, now sent against Sivaji. Jaswant and Muazzim were recalled, and Jai Sinha of Jaipur, who was Aurangzeb's constant instrument in all cases of difficulties with Hindus, was sent against Sivaji. Dilir Khan, another commander, was associated with Jai Sinha in the command. The fort of Raigarh, which Sivaji himself held, and the fort of Singarh, where he had kept his family were both invested, and the garrisons were pressed hard. Further resistance was hopeless, and the chief who was so lately crowned as an independent King, now made his submission. Sivaji gave up twenty out of his thirty-two forts, and consented to hold the remaining twelve small forts as a Jaigir from the Mogul Emperor. And he further consented to co-operate with the Mogul troops in the war against Bijapur, which Jai Sinha had orders to carry on. This was in 1665.

Sivaji proceeded to Delhi with his son Sambhuji on the invitation of Aurangzeb, and on his assurance of safety. If Aurangzeb had now treated Sivaji with the generosity and good faith which Akbar always showed to his conquered foes, he could have undoubtedly turned him into a zealous friend all through his life. But Aurangzeb was not Akbar.

Sivaji was received with coldness and with apparent disdain and insult at Delhi, and left the Durbar in anger : and Aurangzeb ordered guards to be placed under his residence. The bold Mahratta smarted under this breach of

faith, and found himself a prisoner, but he was equal to the occasion. He soon contrived to effect his escape and returned to his native land and in 1666, gave Aurangzeb cause to regret his ungenerous and faithless behaviour.

Jai Sinha had failed in the war against Bijapur and was recalled, and died on his way to Delhi. Jaswant and Muazzim were again sent to the Deccan, and Sivaji soon obtained from them a treaty of peace on the most advantageous terms. His title of Raja was acknowledged and a considerable portion of his territory was restored to him in 1667. Thus at the age of forty, and after daring adventures and heroic struggles such as have seldom been excelled by any builder of a kingdom, the great Sivaji attained the object of his ambition. He was now the recognized ruler of an extensive territory, and had leisure to mature and settle a system of civil administration, and also to organise his army on fixed rules. The strict and methodical rules which he framed and enforced, give us a high idea of his talents as a wise ruler and beneficent administrator.

Sivaji's administration was based on the old Hindu custom. The people lived under the village system, each village being placed under a headman called *Patel*, who collected the revenue and preserved peace and order. Several *Patels*, again, were under a *Deshadhikari*, whose office was hereditary. There were other officers also, such as *Talukdars* and *Subahdars*. Civil cases were decided by *Panchayets*, and criminal laws were derived from the Hindu *Sastras*, and were, as a rule, mild. The land revenue was heavy but was assessed annually upon the actual state of crops.

While Sivaji was making these and other administrative arrangements, Aurangzeb was trying to entrap him again, but failing in that attempt, issued orders for an open attack, which led to a fresh war. Sivaji was not a loser by this declaration of war. His Mawali troops stormed the hill-fort of Singhar near Puna; and Sivaji took a great number of other forts, plundered Surat, and extended his ravages.

as far as Khandesh, from which province he levied a *chauth* or a fourth of the revenue, in 1670.

Aurangzeb now sent 40,000 troops under Muhabat Khan to reinforce Prince Muazzim; but large body of the Mogul troops was totally defeated by the Mahrattas in 1672. This was the first victory of the Mahrattas in the open field against the Moguls. In the two following years, Sivaji conquered from Bijapur nearly the whole of the Southern Concan, and in 1674, he was again formally inaugurated as an independent King, was weighed against gold according to custom, and distributed large presents. The titles of the principal state offices were now changed from Persian to Sanskrit, and all Hindu rites and ceremonies were henceforth more scrupulously observed.

In 1675, Sivaji's troops made an incursion into the Mogul territory in Khandesh, Berar and Gujerat, and for the first time crossed the Nerbudda and extended their ravages beyond that river. In the following year, he crossed the Krishna to the south, to wrest from his younger brother his father's jaigir. He took Jinji and Vellore, and recovered the whole of his father's jaigir in Mysore. A peace was now made with his brother, by which the latter consented to pay him revenue, and Sivaji returned to his capital, Raighar.

The war of the Moguls against Bijapur gave Sivaji fresh opportunities. He appeared as an ally of Bijapur, and the Mogul general was compelled to raise the siege of Bijapur. As a price of his co-operation, Sivaji obtained the territory between the Krishna and the Tumbhadra, and also all the king's rights over Shahji's jaigirs. This was Sivaji's last triumph; he died on the 5th April, 1680, at the age of 53.

Born the son of an officer and jaigirdar, Sivaji rose to be an independent chief and king. The dissensions between the Moguls and the House of Bijapur gave him opportunities, from which his daring genius created a new and powerful Hindu kingdom in the south, of which he was crowned king

in 1664. For a time he yielded to the superior prowess and fame of Jai Sinha, and consented to be a feudatory under the court of Delhi; but the treachery of Aurangzeb turned him into a mortal enemy. He defeated the Moguls in the open field, and was crowned king once more in 1674; and before his death in 1680, his kingdom, extended from the Nurbudda to beyond the Krishna. Aurangzeb was himself staggered at his success and greatness, and said of Sivaji: "He was a great captain and the only one who has had a soul great enough to raise a new kingdom, while I have been endeavouring to destroy the ancient sovereignties of India."

As an administrator, Sivaji endeavoured, by humane regulations, which he strictly enforced, to mitigate the evils of his predatory warfare. Khafi Khan admits that, while Sivaji plundered caravans and troubled mankind, "he was careful to maintain the honour of the women and children of Mahomedans when they fell into his hands. His injunctions upon this point were very strict, and any one who disobeyed them, received punishment." Elsewhere, the same writer gives us a glimpse into Sivaji's kind and almost paternal tenderness for his people, and his simple and endearing behaviour. He had dug a well for the convenience of villagers in a barren and hilly tract, and had erected a stone seat near it. "Upon this bench, Sivaji would take his seat, and when the women of the traders and poor people came to draw water, he would give their children fruits, and talk to the women as to his mother and sisters."

In the meantime Aurangzeb had alienated the affections of his Hindu subjects by his bigotry. He forbade all ostentatious display of image worship, prohibited Hindu religious fairs, and destroyed many of the most famous Hindu temples in India. He took off one half of the customs paid by Mahomedans while he left those of the Hindus unchanged. He imposed the Jiziya on the non-Musalman population, and he passed an order that no Hindu should ride in a *Palki*, or an Arab horse, without permission. Aurangzeb further prohibited the writing

*Aurangzeb's  
bigotry and its  
consequence.*

of history, and discontinued the annals of the empire which had hitherto been kept by a royal historiographer.\*

The Rajputs, annoyed by the imposition of the Jiziya, were further offended at Aurangzeb's harsh <sup>War with the Rajputs.</sup> measures against the widow and children of the brave Jaswant Sinha. That chief had died in Kabul in the imperial service, and his widow forced her way back to India without passports. This slight reason led Aurangzeb to surround her encampment with his troops. The lady and the children were rescued by other Rajputs, and the nation combined against the House of Delhi which they had so long served so bravely and faithfully. The war went on for years; Rajput territory was devastated, villages were burnt, fruit trees were cut down, and women and children carried away. This series of inhuman and thoughtless acts against a brave and faithful and highly sensitive nation for ever alienated the Rajputs, and the throne of Delhi lost the support which they had rendered for over a hundred years. A peace was at last concluded in 1681.

Three years after Sivaji's death, Aurangzeb moved with his whole force to the Deccan. As the <sup>Aurangzeb in</sup> Mahrattas were rising in power, it would have been a wise policy for Aurangzeb to have left the feudatory Musalman Houses of Bijapur and Golkonda supreme in the south. But the Emperor would brook no great power under him, and wished to demolish and level down every semblance of authority except his own. The results were disastrous for himself, for his house, and for the Moslem power in India.

Aurangzeb besieged Bijapur, but unable to take that fort <sup>Bijapur destroyed.</sup> he turned on Golkonda. He crippled the resources of the king of Golkonda and made peace with him and then returned and in-

\* The best Historians of the times derives the name by which he is popularly known from this incident. Muhammad Hashim commenced to write his history in Aurangzeb's reign, but concealed it under the

vaded Bijapur again. That capital was taken in 1686. The great monarchy now came to an end, and the city was soon deserted, and stands to this day with its noble ruins, commanding the admiration of every visitor.

The artful Aurangzeb now broke his peace with Golkonda and invaded that place. After a siege of seven months the place fell, and the monarchy of Golkonda thus ended in 1687.

Aurangzeb then turned all his power against the Mahrattas, and prepared for a systematic attack on the forts. Sambhuji, the son of Sivaji, was a worthless and dissolute prince, and had none

**Sambhuji imprisoned and killed.** of his father's virtue except courage. He was accidentally taken prisoner when in a state of intoxication. An offer made to him to embrace the Moselm faith was rejected with an insult to the Emperor, which was punished with barbarous cruelty. Sambhuji's eyes were put out with red-hot iron, his tongue was cut out, and he was then beheaded, 1686. In the following year, Aurangzeb took Sivaji's capital, Raighar.

Raja Ram, another son of Sivaji, escaped to Jinji and was proclaimed king. The great resources of the Mogul Emperor were of little avail against the system of war adopted by the Mahrattas. They avoided a pitched battle, but their fleet horsemen spread on every side and attacked every place with their claim of *chauth*, and they swept over the whole of the Deccan, in the very face of the imperial army, ravaging and plundering as they went.

Raja Ram had repaired to Jinji which the Mogul at last took in 1698. Two years after, Raja Ram died, leaving his widow Tara Bai regent, as her child was a minor. The Moguls took Satara and nearly all the most important forts of the Mahrattas, one by one, in four or five years. But the loss to

order of prohibition spoken of above. The concealed, or *Khafi* history was published afterwards, whence the author is known as *Khafi Khan*.

the Moguls was greater than that of the Mahrattas. While the former were exhausted by this interminable and fatiguing war, continued for years without any definite result, the latter, heedless of the loss of forts, were spreading triumphantly over all parts of the Deccan, over Malwa and Gujerat, plundering towns, burning down villages, and levying contribution everywhere. "By hard fighting," says Khafi Khan, "by the expenditure of the vast treasure accumulated by Shah Jahan, and by the sacrifice of many thousands of men, he (Aurangzeb) had penetrated into their wretched country, had subdued their lofty forts, and had driven them from house and home; still the daring of the Mahrattas increased, and they penetrated into the old territories of the imperial throne, plundering and destroying wherever they went." Aurangzeb's efforts were like blows on water which offers no resistance but receives no impression. In course of time, as the Moguls became feeble and exhausted, the Mahrattas succeeded in recovering nearly all their forts, and drew closer to the Mogul army.

At last Aurangzeb began to retreat and reached Ahmadnagar. He came only to die in 1707. Disappointed in his endeavour to conquer the south, enfeebled in health, distrustful of his sons and of all the world, he passed some of the most unhappy days of his life immediately before death. "I have committed numerous crimes," he said, "and I know not with what punishments I may be seized." In the north, he had alienated the Rajputs and other Hindus who had been a stay and support to the Mogul throne; in the south, he had destroyed the great Houses of Bijapur and Golkonda, which were towers of strength for the Moslem power. He had disgusted nobles and chiefs by his jealousy and distrust, and had offended the people by insults to their religion and their most cherished feelings. And in spite, therefore, of his commanding abilities, he brought ruin on that dynasty and that great empire, which the generous sympathies and enlightened policy of Akbar,—more than his military prowess,—had reared. Both Akbar and Aurangzeb were distinguished for bravery

in war and for abilities in administration ; they both possessed an extraordinary intelligence and a vigour and capacity for work which astonished their contemporaries. To these qualities, Akbar added a large-hearted sympathy and a wise and generous toleration which helped him to found and weld together a great empire. Aurangzeb, on the other hand, was distinguished by a narrow bigotry, and ungenerous distrust, and a cold calculating duplicity, which, in spite of his great qualities, wrecked the great empire which he had inherited.

## CHAPTER X.

### DECLINE OF MOGUL POWER.

A. D. 1707 to 1761.

#### BAHADUR SHAH.

ON the death of Aurangzeb, his sons, Azam and Muazzim, both assumed the imperial title, and a battle was fought near Agra, in which the former was killed. Muazzim became Emperor under the title of Bahadur Shah. Prince Kambaksh would not acknowledge Bahadur as sovereign, and the latter marched against him to the Deccan, and defeated him near Haidarabad. Prince Kambaksh died of his wounds.

Sambhuji's son Sahu, was the rightful Raja of the Mahrattas, <sup>Peace with the Mahrattas.</sup> but he was a prisoner in the hands of the Moguls ; and in the meantime, Tara Bai, the widow of Raja Ram, carried on the government on behalf of her infant son, whom she and her party hoped to see at the head of the Mahrattas. The Mogul profited by these contending claims : they released Sahu, and concluded a truce with him, promising to pay the *chauth* claimed by the Mahrattas.

The disputes with the Rajputs were also settled. The <sup>Peace with the Rajputs.</sup> Emperor restored all conquests to the Rana of Udaipur, and that chief remained virtually independent. Treaties were also concluded with the Ranas of Marwar and Jaipur.

**The Sikhs.**—The Sikhs were now becoming a great power in India, and were giving trouble in the Punjab. Their founder Nanak, flourished about the end of the fifteenth century, *i. e.*, towards the close of the Pathan rule in India. He maintained that the Hindu and Mahomedan modes of worships were equally acceptable to the great Deity ; and he endeavoured, in fact, to unite the followers of those two religions into a new sect. His

followers lived peacefully for over a hundred years, until Moslem bigotry changed them into warriors and implacable foes. In 1606, *i.e.* in the very year after Akbar's death, the Sikh pontiff was put to death and the whole sect took up arms under the son of the deceased chief. And at last, in the reign of the bigoted Aurangzeb, Guru Govind, the tenth pontiff from Nanak, conceived and carried out the idea of converting the sect into a powerful military commonwealth in 1675. The distinctions of caste were abolished among the members of the sect; a perfect equality was established among the converts; and each member was a vowed soldier from his initiation.

Guru Govind failed in his efforts against the Mogul power, his strongholds were taken, his mother and children were massacred, and he lost all power before his death. His wrongs were, however, revenged with terrible barbarity by his successor, Banda. The Sikhs under him repeatedly overran the whole country between Lahore and Delhi, defeated the governor of Sirhind in a pitched battle, plundered mosques wherever they went, and massacred the inhabitants of towns. The Emperor proceeded against them, and drove them into the hills, and took their last fortress, but Banda escaped. Shortly after Bahadur Shah died in 1712.

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### JAHANDAR SHAH.

After the usual struggle among the princes, the eldest son of Bahadur Shah ascended the throne under the title of Jahandar Shah. He was base, cruel and profligate prince, and cruelly put to death all the princes of the blood within his reach. But within a year of his accession he was defeated and slain by his nephew, Farok Shir, who now ascended the throne in 1713.

## FAROK SHIR.

Farok Shir had ascended the throne mainly through the help of two brothers, Syud Abdulla and Syud <sup>Sikhs.</sup> Husain, governors of Allahabad and Behar ; and they exercised supreme power during the reign of this weak prince, in spite of his feeble efforts to shake off their yoke. Banda had issued from his retreat, and again ravaged the country. The Sikhs, were, however, repeatedly defeated by the imperial troops, and Banda was at last taken prisoner, and was sent to Delhi with over 700 of his followers. They were beheaded on seven successive days disdaining every offer to save their lives by giving up their religion ; their chief being reserved for a more cruel death. The heads of his followers were placed around him ; his child was butchered before his eyes ; and he was at last torn to pieces with hot pincers, dying with unshaken constancy, and glorying to the last on the sacredness of his mission. The Sikhs were then hunted down in their country like wild beasts, and their power was thus effectually broken for a long time.

Syud Husain Ali who had been sent to the south made <sup>Mahrattas.</sup> peace with Sahu Raja and the Mahrattas, on terms very advantageous to them. They retained, or obtained possession of all the territory formerly possessed by Sivaji together with later conquests ; and they were allowed to levy *chauth* over the whole of the Deccan, and to receive a further payment of one-tenth of the remaining revenue under the name of *Sirdesmukhi*. In return Sahu was to pay a tribute of ten lakhs of rupees and to furnish 15,000 horse.

Syud Husain Ali now returned to Delhi, where the Emperor was entering into various intrigues to shake off his power, and that of his brother Syud Abdulla. The intrigues failed, and the Emperor was dragged out of his hiding-place in the harem and killed. The Syud brothers successively set up two feeble princes as Emperors, but they both died one after the other ;

and then a healthier boy was chosen and installed under the name of Muhammad Shah in 1719.

### MUHAMMAD SHAH.

Asaf Jah, who had already distinguished himself as viceroy of the Deccan, now defeated the imperial army and established his power in the Deccan.

Syud Husain Ali marched against this new enemy in the south, but took the Emperor with him to prevent any intrigues. A conspiracy, however, had been formed against the Syuds; Husain Ali was assassinated, his brother Abdulla was defeated and taken prisoner, and the power of the Syud brothers was thus finally extinguished. Asaf Jah was now appointed Vizir and came to Delhi, but was disgusted with the state of affairs there. He resigned his post and returned to the Deccan in 1723, and from that time the Deccan became practically an independent kingdom. The house founded by Asaf Jah continues to this day, and the Nizam of Hyderabad is now the greatest Mahomedan potentate in India, under the imperial power of England.

Another royal house was established in this reign which continued to flourish for over a hundred years.

Oudh. Sadat Khan, originally a merchant of Khorasan, had risen to a military command and gradually established his power in Oudh. His successors were the Nawabs of Oudh until that kingdom was annexed by the British in 1856.

As the Mogul power was declining in the north, the Mahrattas were fast rising to be the greatest power in India. Sahu was a youth of little talent, but his *Peshwa*, or minister, Balaji Visvanath, was a man of consummate abilities, and obtained from the Emperor a ratification of the treaty concluded in the previous reign. Balaji Visvanath died in 1720. He was the founder of the Brahman dynasty of Peshwas, and henceforth the Peshwas, and not the descendants of Sivaji, were the real leaders of the Mahrattas.

Balaji's son, Baji Rao, stepped into his office, and was equally distinguished by his lofty ambition and his great abilities. Referring to the weakness of the Mogul power, he recommended an invasion of Northern India; "Let us strike the withered trunk, and the branches will fall of themselves." He established his right to an annual tribute from Gujerat, conquered Malwa and Bandelkand, and appeared before Delhi in 1737. Asaf Jah came from the Deccan in aid of the feeble Emperor, and was supported by troops under a nephew of Sadat Khan of Oudh. But Baji Rao appeared before him, harassed his troops, and compelled him to cede all the countries between the Nurbudda and the Chumbal to the Mahrattas. All further transactions were now arrested by a great and disastrous invasion of India from outside.

It should be mentioned here that Ranaji Sindia and Malhar Rao Holkar were officers of Baji Rao, and fought under him. The descendants of Sindia and Holkar are now among the most powerful Hindu potentates in India under the imperial power of England.

Nadir Shah, the greatest warrior that Persia has ever produced, was originally a freebooter, but lived to be the deliverer of his country. He recovered Khorasan from the Abdalis, drove out the Ghilji invaders, recovered all parts of Persia which had been conquered by the Turks and Russians, and was at last crowned king of Persia in 1736. Two years after he took Kandahar and Kabul, and then advanced to India.

There was no real opposition to Nadir's progress till he came to the Jumna where he defeated the Emperor and Asaf Jah and Sadat Khan, without much difficulty in 1739. Nadir Shah then marched to Delhi, and usual scenes followed. A report of Nadir's death caused a tumult, and the Indians fell on the Persians, some of whom were killed. This led Nadir to issue a general order of massacre of the inhabitants, which raged from sunrise until the day was far advanced. To

Mahratta  
Houses of Sindia  
and Holkar.

this succeeded plunder. The imperial treasures and jewels, including the celebrated peacock-throne and the effects of great nobles and rich officers were first secured, and the common people were then subjected to every species of cruelty to disclose the amount of their fortunes and to pay accordingly. Contributions were also levied on governors of provinces ; and the grim spoiler at last left Delhi after a residence of two months with a spoil of eight or nine millions sterling in money, several millions in gold and silver plate, besides jewels which were not valued, and a train of elephants, horses, camels and several hundreds of skilful artisans.

Baji Rao died in 1740, and was succeeded by his son Balaji

Mahratta Houses  
of Nagpur and  
Baroda.

Rao. A rival to him had appeared in Raghiji Bhonsla, the "Pratinidhi" of the royal house.

And while Balaji was attempting to get a formal grant of Malwa from Emperor, Raghiji invaded Bengal then ruled by the Subahdar Ali Vardi Khan. Balaji obtained the grant he sought for, and drove out Raghiji from Bengal but was subsequently compelled to come to terms with him. Raghiji was thereby allowed to levy *chauth* from Bengal, Behar and founded the Bhonsla House of Nagpur, which flourished for over a hundred years until it was annexed by the British in 1853. Another Mahratta House, that of the Gaekwars of Baroda has been founded by Piláji Rao Gaekwar, and continues to flourish to the present day, under the imperial power of England.

Muhammad Shah died in 1748, within a month after his son Ahmad Shah had repulsed a new invader Ahmad Shah Durani of Kabul.

### AHMAD SHAH.

The short reign of Ahmad Shah was marked by a war with the Rohillas. The Rohillas who had risen to power and independence in consequence of the weakness of the imperial house. Safdar Jang, the son of Sadat Khan

of Oudh, was now appointed minister by the Emperor, but he was defeated by the brave Rohillas. He then called in the Mahrattas to his aid, and with their help defeated the Rohillas in a pitched battle. The Mahrattas ravaged the country, and reduced it to a state from which it did not recover for many years.

Ahmad Shah Durani of Kabul made a second invasion into the Punjab, and obtained possession of the province without much difficulty. The emperor was soon after deposed by Ghazi-uddin, a son of Asaf Jah of the Deccan, who raised a prince of the royal blood to the throne under the name of Alamgir II\* in 1754.

## ALAMGIR II.

Ahmad Shah Durani takes Delhi.

Ghaziuddin, who had now made himself the minister, took possession of Lahore by treachery. Ahmad Shah Durani hastened to revenge this act, and not only recovered the Punjab, but took Delhi and plundered and ravaged that city; and Delhi once more presented a scene of slaughter and rapine. This was followed by a massacre of the unoffending inhabitants of Mathura in the midst of a religious festival which they were celebrating.

As soon as Ahmad Shah left India, Ghaziuddin called in the Mahrattas, and Raghoba, the Peshwa's brother, came to Northern India, took Delhi and recovered the Punjab.

Third Battle of Paniput.

This led to a fresh invasion by Ahmad Shah. Raghoba had returned to the Deccan, and his cousin Sadaseo Rao Bhaos came to Northern India, to face the great invader. The power of the Mahrattas was now at its zenith, and they were supreme from the Himalayas to Cape Comorin. Sadaseo took Delhi and proposed to proclaim Visvas Rao, son of the Peshwa, Emperor of India.

\* The Emperor Aurangzeb was Alamgir I.

The measure was postponed till the Duranis were expelled from India.

After the close of the rains Ahmad Shah marched against Sadaseo, but was unwilling to attack such a vastly superior force, and intrenched himself. The Mahratta army consisted of about 70,000 paid horse and infantry, besides about 20,000 predatory horse and followers. Ahmad Shah had 49,000 Afghans, 13,000 Indian horse, and 38,000 Indian infantry.

A great battle, which is known as the Third Battle of Paniput was fought in 1761. The Mahratta army was totally defeated, Visvas Rao and Sadaseo Rao being among the slain. Mahdaji Sindia (son of Ranaji) was lamed for life, Malhar Rao Holkar and Nana Farnavis escaped by flight.

The Mahratta power was crushed in Northern India, and the Peshwas never recovered that power again. Sindia and Holkar extended Mahratta conquests and power in Northern India at a subsequent period.

Alamgir II had been murdered in 1759; and his son, Shah Alam, was an exile in Bengal, and was never virtually Emperor. The history of the Mogul Empire terminates, therefore, at this date.

**State of the Country.**—The system of administration adopted by the Moguls has already been **Administration.** briefly alluded to in our account of the reign of Akbar. The empire was divided into provinces or subahs, and a Subahdar or Viceroy was appointed to each province. The Viceroy was practically supreme in his own province, and as long as he remitted the imperial revenue with regularity, and acknowledged the supremacy of the Emperor, he was seldom interfered with, and the office sometimes descended from father to son. Dewans were appointed under Viceroys to collect revenue, and Fouzdars, or commanders of forces' maintained peace and order in districts. Kazis were appointed in towns to try civil cases, and Kotwals were the heads of town police. No such officers were appointed in agricultural

villages, as, by immemorial custom in India, village communities administered their own affairs, preserved order and peace, and paid the quota of land revenue due from each village to the royal officers.

Jaigirs were often granted by the Emperor to meritorious officers or to favourites, and such jaigirdars enjoyed the revenue derived from their jaigirs, and transmitted them to their descendants, subject to the payment of the imperial revenue, and the performance of the duties imposed on them. Military officers under the empire were often remunerated, not by fixed pay, but by the gifts of jaigirs, and there was a constant tendency, therefore, to multiply such jaigirs. The Emperor Akbar set his face against this policy, because the creation of jaigirs was a decrease of the imperial revenue; and he adopted the fixed rule of paying his officers in money. But weaker Emperors did not or could not always adhere to this healthy rule, and jaigirdars multiplied in all parts of India. In Bengal, as well as in many other parts of India, local zemindars had rights similar to those of the jaigirdars, and enjoyed the revenues of their estates subject to the payment of the imperial revenue. It is needless to add that in troublesome times the jaigirdars and zemindars often fought among themselves, added to their estates by robbing their neighbours, and conciliated the Subahdar by gifts or the payment of additional revenue. Within their own estates the jaigirdars and zemindars were practically the lords of the villages, preserved peace, and exercised criminal and police powers.

All lands held by the people, subject to payment of rent to jaigirdars and zamindars or of revenue direct to the State. The State revenue was realized by the Subahdar and remitted to the imperial treasury. Various taxes also swelled the imperial revenue. Tolls, house-cess, taxes on all trades and on live stock, collections at Hindu and Mahomedan fairs and festivals, taxes on spirits, gambling-houses, brothels, and a percentage on debts realized by the help of magistrates.

are enumerated by Khafi Khan; and we are told by that historian, that these and other imposts, *nearly eighty in number*, were abolished by Aurangzeb throughout Hindustan on one occasion of scarcity. But the same writer tells us, that "the royal proclamation had no effect, and foudzars and jaigirdars in remote places did not withhold their hands from these exactions." And further on, speaking of the *Rahdari*, or tolls, he says: "In most parts of the imperial territories the foudzars and jaigirdars, by force and tyranny, now exact more than ever from the traders and poor and necessitous travellers. The zemindars also, seeing that no inquiries are made, extort more on roads within their boundaries than is collected on roads under royal officers. By degrees, matters have come to such a pass, that between the time of leaving the factory or port and reaching their destination, goods and merchandize pay double their cost in tolls."

This gives us an insight into the real weakness of the administration. The system of administration was in fact as rude as prevailed in most parts of Europe in the sixteenth and seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The rulers of great kingdoms were sometimes wise and beneficent; but their power scarcely extended to the provinces, where the people were at the mercy of local chiefs or governors. And agriculture and trade suffered much from the oppression of the men in power.

Such oppression, however, was chronic in those times, and it must not be supposed that it killed off arts or manufactures or trades in India. The people, though they lived in fear of the great, knew how to conciliate them, and it was not the interest of Subahdars or jaigirdars or zemindars to ruin their province or their estate, however prone they might be to exactions. The people plied their humble trades and professions under the shadow of the royal power, manufactures flourished, and large commercial transactions were carried on in a quiet, unostentatious way. War was less disastrous in India than in Europe during the same

centuries, and the fertile soil of the country supplied the agriculturists, who have always formed the bulk of the Indian people, with an abundant supply of the simple food they stood in need of. The condition of the agriculturists, who lived in their Village Communities in India, was better than that of agriculturists in many European countries in the same age, who were little better than serfs. And the accounts of European travellers who visited India from the thirteenth to the seventeenth century leave little doubt that arts, and trade flourished, tolerably well in India during the Musalman rule, and that the material condition of the common people was not unsatisfactory.

The celebrated French traveller Bernier who travelled from place to place in the latter part of the seventeenth century, is lavish in his praise of the beauty and the abundant supplies of the country. He saw numerous creeks or canals on both sides of the Hughli, from Rajmahal to the sea. Crowded towns, and villages were situated on both sides, and the fields were covered with rice and sugarcane, mustard and *teel*. Bengal was the great granary of India, and its abundant rice crops supplied the needs of the people, and were also exported to the other parts of the country. Bengal sugar was exported as far as the Karnatic; fruits and live stock and fish were plentiful; and cotton, silk, saltpetre, lac, opium and various drugs were also produced.

## CHAPTER X.

### RISE OF BRITISH POWER.

A. D. 1744 to 1772.

#### KARNATIC.

The products and manufactures of India were greatly valued in Europe by the ancients ; and in the Middle Ages, Arab-traders carried Indian commodities to Bagdad and Syria and Constantinople, whence they found their way to many ports in Europe. Italy, by her position, long maintained a sort of monopoly of the trade of the Mediterranean Sea, and Venetian and Genoese merchants carried the products of the East to the kings and nobles of all parts of Europe. Other nations tried to obtain a share in this trade, and attempted to discover a direct route to India by sea ; and, in 1492, Columbus sailed westwards, across the Atlantic, in order to reach India by that route, and believed he had reached India, when he actually discovered America. Five years after, the route to India, by sea, was actually discovered, and Vasco da Gama, a Portuguese navigator, arrived at Calicut on the Malabar Coast, round the Cape of Good Hope, in 1497.

The Portuguese rose as a naval and commercial power as *The Portuguese in the East.* the Italian cities declined. The daring and comprehensive genius of Alfonso de Albuquerque soon established the supremacy of the Portuguese through all the Indian Seas. He conquered Goa and made it the capital of the Portuguese possessions in the East ; he conquered Malacca after an obstinate defence ; and in 1514, he conquered Ormuz, in the Persian Gulf, the key to the trade of Persia, and the proudest sea-port in Asia. The Portuguese empire was in the height of its power during the sixteenth century. From the Cape of Good Hope to the frontier of China, an extent of 12,000 miles of coast, all the principal

trade marts were in the possession of the Portuguese. Mozambique in Africa, Muscat in Arabia, Ormuz in Persia, Diu, Goa, Cochin and other ports on the Malabar Coast, St. Thomas, Madras, and Masalipatam on the Coromandel Coast, Malacca and the Spice Islands in the Indian Archipelago, all belonged to the Portuguese, who thus retained, throughout the sixteenth century, the monopoly of the trade with the East. But as the Dutch rose in power the Portuguese fell, and Goa and one or two other insignificant places are all they now possess in India.

**Holland** fast rose as a naval and commercial power, when **The Dutch in the East.** she shook off the yoke of Spain in the latter half of the sixteenth century. Early in the seventeenth century *i. e.* in 1602, the Dutch East India Company was formed. In 1619, the Dutch founded Batavia in Java; and, in 1623, he compelled the English, after the massacre of Amboyna, to retire from the Eastern Archipelago. Throughout the seventeenth century, the Dutch were supreme in the Archipelago, and they gradually wrested from the Portuguese many of their possessions, both in the Archipelago and in India. In the following century, as the British power rose in India, Dutch influence and trade declined, and in 1824, the English bought from the Dutch their last Indian possession of Chinsura. But Sumatra and Java still own the supremacy of Holland, and contain an extent of territory and population vastly in excess of those of Holland itself.

**The Danes, too, made an effort to have a share in the trade with India, but never had much influence or power.** Their settlement at Serampore was bought by the English in 1845.

**The French and the English contended for supremacy in India in the eighteenth century.** The first **The French in the East.** French East India Company was founded in 1604. Factories were established in Surat in 1664, in Pondicherry in 1673, and in Chandarnagar in 1688; and Pondicherry became the capital of French India.

The English East India Company was established in <sup>The English in the East.</sup> 1600, and was the first private Company formed to carry on the Eastern trade. It had 125 shareholders, and a capital of £70,000. At first the company turned its attention to the Indian Archipelago, but after 1623, the English practically left those islands to the Dutch, and turned their attention more exclusively to India. In 1639, they bought a site from the Raja of Chandragiri, a descendant of the Hindu House of Bijayanagar, and built Fort St. George, and thus founded Madras. In 1661, the island of Bombay was ceded by Portugal to the British Crown as part of the dowry of the princess, whom Charles II. of England married. Charles II. sold his rights over Bombay to the East India Company for £10, and the Company removed their trading concerns from Surat, where they had a factory before, to Bombay, in 1687. In Bengal, the English had factories in Kasimbazar, Patna, Dacca, Hugli, and other places, but had no territorial possessions till the close of the century. In 1686, the Subahdar issued orders confiscating all the English factories in Bengal, and the merchants of Hugli, under Job Charnock, came down to the site of modern Calcutta, where he laid the foundations of a fort. In 1700 the three villages of Sutanuti, Govindapur and Kalikata (Calcutta) were formally purchased by the English from the son of Aurangzeb.

War broke out between the English and the French in Europe in 1744. <sup>First war in the Carnatic.</sup> In the following year, an English fleet appeared off the Coromandel Coast to destroy the French settlements. Dupleix was then the Governor of Pondicherry. He made presents to Anwaruddin, Nawab of the Carnatic, and asked for his protection, and Anwaruddin prohibited the English from carrying on war within his dominions. In the following year, a French fleet appeared under La Bourdonnais. Madras surrendered to La Bourdonnais on the pledge that it would be restored to the English on the payment of a

ransom. Soon after, La Bourdonnais left India,\* and Dupleix declined to respect the pledge, and confiscated all the property of the English. Madras thus became a French settlement for a time, and the English were sent to Pondicherry as prisoners of war.

The Nawab was annoyed at those proceedings of the French, and sent an army of 10,000 men to capture Madras. To his surprise, the great army was defeated by a French force of a few hundred men. It was a surprise to all, and for the first time proved how the humble traders from Europe were immensely superior in disciplined valour to the vast armies led by the Indians chiefs. The two important discoveries, remarks Mr. Mill, for conquering India, *viz.*, the weakness of Indian armies against European discipline, and the facility of imparting that discipline to Indian sepoys in European service, were both made by the French.

In 1748, Major Lawrence arrived from England and took the command of the land force, while Admiral Boscawen came with an English fleet. A combined attack was made on Pondicherry by land and sea, but after a siege of two months, the attempt failed, and the English were compelled to retire. The treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle was concluded between England and France in the same year, and Madras was restored to the English.

Dupleix now indulged in ambitious schemes to establish French supremacy in India. Asaf

Dupleix.

Jah, who had founded the House of the Nizams in the Deccan, as we saw in the last chapter, died in 1748; there was a dispute for the throne, and the French sided with one party. Similarly there was a dispute for the throne of the Karnatic and Dupleix favoured one of the claimants. His endeavours were crowned with success

\*The French nation treated this distinguished officer with ingratitude. On his return to France, La Bourdonnais was imprisoned in the Bastile for three years and died shortly after his release.

in both the kingdoms. Salabat, a creature of the French, was raised to the throne of the Deccan through the influence of the able French Officer, Bussy.

In the Karnatic, Chanda Saheb, also a creature of the French was supreme ; his rival, Muhammad Ali, son of the late Nawab, was closely besieged in Trichinopoly by the French and Chanda Saheb, and was already offering to surrender.

For a time the English were bewildered at the ambition of Dupleix and the success of his schemes. But the daring genius of Clive retrieved their fortunes in the Karnatic.

Robert Clive had come out to Madras in 1744, at the age of nineteen, as writer in the Mercantile service of the Company. When war broke out between the French and the English, he entered the military service of the Company as an ensign ; and when Madras was taken by the French in 1746, Clive made his escape in a Mahomedan dress, and fled to Fort St. David. Two years after, he took a part in the unsuccessful siege of Pondicherry, in which he distinguished himself by his daring intrepidity. In 1751 he went to Trichinopoly as Commissary with the forces which were sent to help Muhammad Ali against the French. On his return from Trichinopoly to Madras, Clive hit upon a bold scheme. Arcot was the capital of the Nawabs of the Karnatic ; to take that place by assault, to hold it for Mahamad Ali, and thus to compel the besiegers of Trichinopoly to raise the siege, and come to the relief of Arcot—was a bold manœuvre, which exactly suited Clive's daring genius. With

**Second war in the Karnatic.** 200 Europeans and 300 sepoys, Captain Clive marched against Arcot ; the garrison left the fort in panic, and Clive took possession of it without a blow in 1751.

Clive's expectations were fulfilled. A large portion of the army besieging Trichinopoly, was sent to rescue Arcot. For fifty days Clive repulsed all

attacks and held the fort. The final attack was given by the Mahomedans, but was beaten back. The besiegers then raised siege and fled, and Clive pursued and dispersed them. He also took some strongholds for Muhammad Ali in the Karnatic but Major Lawrence now returned from Europe and took the command in 1752, and Captain Clive now acted under him as second in command.

**Siege of Trichinopoly.** Lawrence went to Trichinopoly to help Muhammad Ali in his defence; and other allies also came to help him. A force came from Tanjore, and the regent of Mysore came with his own army and with a body of Mahratta. The besiegers were now humbled. Chanda Shaheb surrendered himself to the Tanjore general and was killed. The French force capitulated. The success of the English at Trichinopoly was thus complete, and their creature Muhammed Ali was now *de facto* Nawab of the Karnatic, 1752. In the following year Clive left for England.

**The French in the Northern Circars.** When the English triumphed in the Karnatic, the French achieved a triumph in the Deccan. Salabat Jung could not maintain his position without the support of Bussy and the French army, and he therefore ceded the whole of the Northern Circars to the French, for the permanent maintenance of their forces. Even in the Karnatic the prospects of the English again became clouded. Muhammad Ali's Mysore allies were disappointed of the rewards they had expected, and refused to depart, and an English garrison had to be left to defend the place. The French and the Mysorians continued the siege, and thus active operations went on at Trichinopoly for another eighteen months until October, 1754.

England and France now decided to terminate this Indian war, and peace was concluded at Pondicherry in January, 1755 by which the English obtained every thing they were fighting for, and the French lost every advantage they had gained. Muhammad Ali remained virtually the Nawab of the Karnatic.

War broke out again between France and England, and in 1758, a French fleet arrived at Pondicherry.

**Third war in the Karnatic.** It brought a large force under Count de Lally who was sent out as Governor-General of the French possessions in India.

Soon after his arrival he took Fort St. David from the **Capture of Fort St. David.** English and then made preparation to take Madras. Bent upon this great object, he committed the almost inconceivable folly of recalling Bussy from the Deccan, where that officer had firmly established French influence and power. Bussy protested, but in vain, and his departure from the Northern Circars was immediately followed by results which were disastrous to the French. The Raja of Vizianagram revolted against the successor of Bussy, and wrote to Clive, who was then in Calcutta, for help. Clive sent assistance under Colonel Forde; and Colonel Forde eventually drove them out of the Northern Circars.

In December, 1758, Count de Lally took the city of Madras and laid siege to the fort. The attempt failed **Siege of Madras.** and on the arrival of an English fleet the siege was raised in February, 1759.

In the following year, Lally and his mutinous troops were defeated by the English under Colonel Coote at Wandewash.

Towards the close of the same year, Colonel Coote, laid **Fall of Pondicherry.** siege to Pondicherry. Lally made an obstinate resistance, but the garrison was starved into a capitulation in January, 1761. This was the culminating incident of the downfall of French power in India. Pondicherry and some other places were restored to the French by the treaty of Paris, which was concluded in Europe in 1763, but the French never regained their former influence and power in India. Henceforth the English remained supreme in the Karnatic.

## BENGAL.

We must now go back a few years in order to tell the story of the rise of British power in Bengal from its commencement. Ali Vardi Khan, the Subahdar of Bengal, who had saved Bengal from the attacks of the Mahrattas by the payment of a large annual tribute, died in 1756. He was succeeded by his grandson, Suraj-ud-daula, a dissolute and tyrannical prince. Suraj-ud-daula bitterly hated the English, and immediately on his accession called upon Mr. Drake, the Governor of Calcutta, to demolish the additions which had been made to Fort William. Mr. Drake's reply provoked the Subahdar's anger, and he captured the English factory at Kasimbazar and marched with a large army to Calcutta.

On the 18th June a general attack was made on the English outposts defended by three batteries. The Suraj-ud-daula takes Calcutta. batteries were abandoned, and the garrison sought shelter within the feeble walls of the fort. At night the women and children were taken on board a vessel, and they escaped on the following day. On the 19th, Mr. Drake having escaped in a boat, Mr. Holwell was selected in his place, but resistance was hopeless. On the 20th June, Mr. Holwell opened negotiations by throwing a letter over the ramparts, which was answered by a flag of truce. Soon after, the enemy climbed over the walls, and obtained possession of the fort without resistance.

Then followed what is known as the tragedy of the Black Hole. The English prisoners, 146 in number, The Tragedy of the Black Hole. were confined in a dungeon only eighteen feet square with two small windows barred with iron. The air became pestilential and suffocating; their sufferings were so great that from eleven the prisoners began to die, and when the day dawned, 123 were found dead, and the survivors were mostly either raving or insensible.

Englishmen were not likely to remain inactive after such a Calcutta retaken by the English. disaster. All the naval and land forces which could be spared were now sent to Calcutta.

Clive had returned from Europe to Bombay as a Lieutenant-Colonel in the service of the Crown; and he and Admiral Watson had distinguished themselves by taking Gheria, the stronghold of the pirates called the Angrias who had for fifty years been a terror to the Malabar Coast, and had levied contributions from merchants. In December, 1756, Clive and Watson came up the Hugli river, and Clive landed his troops at Baj Baj to go to Calcutta by land. His little army was suddenly attacked by the Nawab's troops. Clive refused to retreat; he rallied his troops and beat back and dispersed an enemy vastly superior in numbers. Manik Chand, the Commander of the Nawab's troops, was struck with panic at the issue of this battle; he quitted Calcutta, leaving a nominal force of 500 to make a show of resistance; and as soon as Admiral Watson opened his batteries the place surrendered. On the 2nd January, 1757, Captain Coote was sent up against Hugli, which he took and plundered.

On receiving this intelligence, Suraj-ud-daula assembled his army and marched upon Calcutta and Peace with the Nawab. intrenched himself in the neighbourhood of that town. On the 5th February, Clive, with a force of over two thousand men, advanced on the Nawab's army, the action was fought in a straggling manner and was indecisive, but the English repulsed every attack made on them. Suraj-ud-daula now consented to come to terms; the English were permitted to fortify Calcutta and to carry on trade as before, and even an offensive and defensive alliance was concluded.

War having been declared between England and France, Clive and Watson proceeded to lay siege to Chandarnagar, a strongly fortified place held by the French. Clive commenced the siege in May, 1757, and Watson came up soon after with the fleet and opened a heavy cannonade. The French made a brave resistance, but were at last compelled to surrender and the garrison became prisoners of war. Chandarnagar was restored

to the French by the treaty of Paris of 1763, but the French never regained their lost influence and power in Bengal.

The Nawab was furious on receiving this intelligence, but as he was afraid of the English he still professed friendliness. A conspiracy to depose the Nawab was on foot. Mir Jafar, the pay-master of the Nawab's forces, was ready to join the conspiracy if he could get the promise of the Nawabship in place of his master, and Clive entered into this conspiracy.

On the 13th June, 1757, Colonel Clive began his march from Chandarnagar with 3,100 men, of whom only 750 were British. The next day he crossed the river and marched towards the enemy, and on the following day, the 23rd June, the battle was fought.

The battle of Plassy was not a battle vigorously fought.

**Battle of Plassy.** The Nawab's troops commenced the attack; the English, protected by a grove and a high bank, remained on the defensive, and kept up a straggling cannonade while Clive himself fell asleep in the midst of the battle. Mir Jafar's conduct was as mysterious as it had hitherto been; his corps remained inactive, and he probably waited to see the result before taking any decided action. At last his troops were seen to separate from the rest of the Nawab's army and to come over to the English. Clive then decided to attack the enemy, but the enemy scarcely waited to receive the attack, and fled at the first onset. And "thus the English determined," says Mill, "the fate of a great kingdom and of thirty millions of people with the loss of 20 Europeans killed and wounded, of 16 sepoys killed and only 36 wounded."

Clive saluted Mir Jafar as Nawab of Bengal, Behar and Orissa. Suraj-ud-daula fled to Rajmahal, and was there arrested; he was brought to Murshidabad, where he was assassinated by order of Mir Jafar's son.

**Mir Jafar is made Nawab.** The Company received the zemindari rights over the district of the 24-Perganahs.

In June, 1758, Clive was appointed Governor to the Company's settlements in Bengal. In the same year the Shahzada, *i.e.*, the eldest son of the Emperor of Delhi, being appointed by his father Subahdar of Bengal, Behar and Orissa, came to Behar to establish his claim. The English marched to Patna to oppose him, but dissensions broke out among the enemy, and the Shahzada was left without support, and begged a sum of Clive for his subsistence. Clive sent him 500 gold mohurs, and the prince retired.

It was in the same year that Clive sent Colonel Forde to the Northern Circars, and as we have seen before, Forde drove the French from that province and established British influence. Clive next attacked the Dutch, defeated them, and, in February 1760, he sailed for Europe.

Mir Jafar made a worthless Nawab; he was incapable of superintending the administration of the country, and passed his time in pleasure. He had also failed to pay off the arrears due to the English, and the English deposed him and set up another Nawab, who could pay.

The year 1761 is an important date in the history of India. It witnessed the downfall of the Mahratta power in Northern India at the battle of Paniput. It witnessed the surrender of Pondicherry and the extinction of French power in Southern India. And in Bengal, Mir Jafar was deposed, and his son-in-law Mir Kasim was made Nawab. Mir Kasim soon paid off the arrears due to the English, and he ceded three districts—Burdwan, Midnapore and Chittagong—to the Company.

Mir Kasim is made Nawab.

The Shahzada, Shah Alam, who had, on the death of his father, inherited the empty title of Emperor of Delhi, was again making incursions into Behar. Mir Kasim and Major Carnac defeated his army, and then installed him at Patna as Emperor of India; and the nominal Emperor formally con-

ferred on Mir Kasim the Nawabship of Bengal, Behar and Orissa.

Mir Kasim had a will of his own and wished to be a real Nawab. He removed his capital from Murshidabad to Monghyr, and he disciplined a picked army, somewhat after the European model. Quarrels soon rose between him and the English on questions of trade.

The East India Company was exempt from those heavy transit duties which were levied from other traders on all goods passing up and down the river. This immunity gave the Company a great advantage over Indian traders. But after the battle of Plassy, the European servants of the Company had begun to trade on their own account, and claimed immunity from transit duties. They derived vast profits from their trade. Worse than this, they gave the sanction of their name to Indian agents, who thus traded all over Bengal without the payment of transit duties, and drove the regular traders off the field. Every Indian gomashta or adventurer, who could hire a Dastak or fly the Company's flag, cheated the revenue, and regular trade was ruined.

Mir Kasim bitterly complained against these abuses which ruined his revenues. Vansittart then Governor, and Warren Hastings, then a Member of the Council, supported the Nawab's objections, but they appealed in vain to men who drew their chief income from private trade.

The Nawab at last ended the controversy by abolishing all inland duties, thus placing his own subject, at a considerable sacrifice of his revenue, in the same position with the Company's servants. The English loudly complained against this measure. Warren Hastings, as usual, supported the action of the Nawab. "The Nawab," he said, "has granted a boon to his subjects; and there are no grounds for demanding that a sovereign prince should withdraw such a boon, or for threatening him with war in the event of refusal."

Matters soon came to a crisis. In May, 1763, a boat arrived at Monghyr laden with goods for the English factory of

Patna, and with 500 matchlocks for the English garrison. The Nawab refused to allow the matchlocks to go to Patna, and further detained Mr. Hay as a hostage for the safety of his own officers whom the English had arrested. On receiving this intelligence, Mr. Ellis of Patna at once attacked and took that city. Thus war began between the English and Mir Kasim.

Patna was soon recovered by the Nawab's troops, and the English garrison were made prisoners. The English factory at Kasimbazar was also taken, and all the English there were made prisoners. Mr. Amyatt, who was proceeding to Calcutta by river, was arrested and killed by the Nawab's troops.

The English army under Major Adams now proceeded to Murshidabad, took the defences of the place, and they met the Nawab with 20,000 horse and 8,000 foot drawn up at Gheria, and presenting the aspect of a European army. Major Adams, with only 3,000 men, attacked them, and, after an obstinate battle of four hours defeated the enemy. The Nawab retreated to an intrenched camp at Uday Nala. The reduction of the well-defended post took the English army nearly a month, but at last it was surprised and carried.

Major Adams now marched upon Monghyr and took it after a siege of nine days. Mir Kasim was thrown into a paroxysm of rage, and sent notice that the moment the English force would advance upon Patna, he would put to death the English garrison of the place, now his prisoners. The English troops advanced, and Mir Kasim fulfilled his cruel purpose. Fifty English gentlemen and a hundred soldiers were put to death in cold blood, and two opulent Setts were also killed for their known attachment to the English. By this barbarous and inhuman conduct Mir Kasim forfeited that sympathy which his spirited and just policy had so long enlisted in his favour.

The English took Patna in November, 1763, after a vigorous resistance of eight days, and Mir Kasim left his dominions and sought the protection of Suja-ud-daula, Nawab of Oudh.

The Nawab invaded Behar in April, 1764, but was repulsed by the English at Patna. A mutiny now broke out among the sepoys of the English army, but was quelled, and the ringleaders were punished. Major Hector Monro took the field after the rains. He found the Nawab of Oudh strongly intrenched at Buxar on the Sone. On the 23rd October, the enemy advanced from their intrenchments and attacked the English, but were defeated after three hours. The English army then took Allahabad and advanced to Lucknow, and the Nawab of Oudh was again defeated by the English at Kalpi and surrendered himself. Mir Kasim fled to the North-west where he died in obscurity.

Mir Jafar had been again made Nawab immediately on the commencement of the war with Mir Kasim, but he was unable to meet the fresh pecuniary demands of the English, and died in January, 1765. The question of making a new Nawab was discussed : Clive was coming out again, but the Members of the Calcutta Council hurried through the arrangement before the arrival of Clive. An illegitimate son of Mir Jafar, Najim-ud-daula was set up as Nawab ; Muhammad Reza Khan was invested with the exercise of all real power, and it was arranged that twenty lakhs of rupees should be distributed to the Governor of Calcutta and certain Members of the Council.

Najim-ud-daula made Nawab.

Clive Governor of Bengal.

Clive (now Lord Clive) arrived at Calcutta in May, 1765, and was dissatisfied with the arrangements which were made ; but they could not be upset. His idea now was to secure a recognized status for the East India Company in Bengal.

In the old days of the Mogul rule in India, a Subahdar was appointed in each province, and, under him, a Dewan was appointed for the collection of the provincial revenues, which were then transmitted to the imperial treasury of Delhi. Clive wished to make arrangements somewhat in conformity with this form. The Nawab of Bengal might be considered as the Subah-

dar, but the East India Company might be the Dewan for Bengal, Behar and Orissa.

**East India Company as Dewan of Bengal, Behar and Orissa.**

With these ideas Clive went up to Allahabad, and there met the Emperor and the Nawab of Oudh. Oudh was restored to the Nawab on condition of his ceding Allahabad and Kora in lieu of the tribute due to the Emperor. The Emperor

was glad to accept Allahabad and Kora in lieu of tribute which he had never obtained. And the East India Company was made Dewan on promise of payment of a yearly tribute 26 lakhs of rupees. But the East India Company also took upon itself the military defence of the country, for which duty the Nawab was incompetent. The Nawab was left in charge of law, justice and police ; the Company collected the revenues, paid the Nawab and his officials their salaries, sent the stipulated tribute to the Emperor, provided for the defence of the provinces, and transferred the surplus revenues to its coffers. The Emperor also granted to the Company the territorial jurisdiction of the Northern Circars.

**Reform in the Service.** Clive also effected a reform in the Service. It has been stated before that the servants of the Company obtained large profits from private trade, and also received handsome gifts on every possible occasion. In January, 1765, the letters of the Court of Directors prohibiting inland trade and the receipt of presents by the Company's servants, had been received, but had remained unheeded ; and when Clive came in May, he found, to use his own words, "anarchy, confusion, and what is an almost general corruption."

The Directors strongly condemned the state of things and sent out new covenants which prohibited the receipt of large presents, and which the Company's servants, civil and military, were required to sign. These were duly signed, but the inland trade was not given up at once. The scale of pay of the superior servants of the Company was yet very low, and Clive and his Committee resolved, that an association or society should

be formed to carry on private trade in salt, betelnut and tobacco, and that, after payment of the duty due to the Company the profits should be shared among the superior servants of the Company.

In the following year, the Court of Directors, on learning of this arrangement, strongly condemned it as a violation of their orders, and absolutely forbade the trade in salt, betelnut and tobacco. The society, therefore, was dissolved; but its final transactions were not closed till after the departure of Clive from India.

A reform in the army was more vigorously carried out. English officers had been allowed an extra allowance, called *double bhata*, by Mir Jafar, and had continued to receive it from Mir Kasim. The Company being now the paymasters, resolved to abolish it, and orders were accordingly issued. The officers resented this, and nearly two hundred officers resigned their commissions. Clive, however, was equal to the occasion, and the sepoys remained true to their salt, and exhibited a steady obedience. Some of the officers were sent down to Calcutta, while others submitted, and thus the mutiny of English officers, which had threatened serious consequences, was soon quelled. After effecting all these reforms, Lord Clive left India, for the third and last time, in 1767. He was the first great architect of the British Empire in India.\*

Lord Clive not only assured the position of the English Political and Financial interests of the Company secured. as a great political power in India, but he also boasted that he had placed the financial interests of the Company on a satisfactory basis. He estimated the revenues of the provinces under the English rule at 250 lakhs of rupees; and, after deducting the imperial tribute of 26 lakhs, the pension to the Nawab of 42 lakhs, and the administrative expenses of 60 lakhs, he anticipated a clear gain of 122 lakhs to the Company. These matters had engaged the attention of Clive, but he did not

\*The last years of Clive in England were unhappy, and he committed suicide in 1774.

stay long enough to settle the actual administration of the country on a satisfactory basis.

The administrative arrangement was rude and defective.

**Efficient ad-  
ministration of  
the country not  
secured.** Clive had recognized Muhammad Reza Khan as Deputy Nawab at Murshidabad and Raja Sitab Rai as Deputy Nawab at Patna.

They were in charge of the administration and of the collection of revenue, which was then to be handed over to the English. This double government was vicious in principle, and it failed. The supreme power which obtained the revenue took no interest in its collection and in the welfare of the people. The subordinates who collected the revenue were responsible only for its collection, and were not likely to look to the protection and welfare of the people. And thus, by a faulty division of duties, the people were left without protectors, and were grievously oppressed. The subordinate collectors robbed the people, and the Company's servants, who refrained from interfering with the internal administration, got the blame for all the sufferings of the people.

Revenues began to fail and even trade declined with the in-

**Famine of  
1770-71.** creasing poverty of the people, and the climax was reached when Bengal was visited by a terrible famine in 1770-71. One-third of the population of Bengal was officially reported to have been swept away by the famine, and many fair villages relapsed into jungle and became the home of wild animals.

## MYSORE.

We must now go back a few years to trace the rise of a new power in Southern India. The kingdom of Mysore had never been entirely subjugated by the Mahomedans. Alauddin Khilji destroyed the Ballala kingdom in 1310, but never established any direct rule in these parts, and in 1344, the Hindu kingdom of Vijaynagar arose.

Mysore continued as feudatory state of Vijaynagar ; and after the fall of the latter, Mysore became practically independent. The Hindu kings of Mysore grew more and more powerful till the beginning of the eighteenth century. In 1733, on the extinction of the old ruling house, Nanda Raj, one of the ministers, usurped all power. Nanda had an officer under him named Haider Naik. Haider was at Trichinopoly during

**Haidar Ali in Mysore** the famous siege of that place. He succeeded eventually, by various tricks in destroying the influence of the regent of Mysore, and in obtaining the supreme power in the state, 1760.

Haider Ali began to extend his conquests on all sides ; he conquered Bednore, attacked and plundered Calicut, then a rich emporium of trade, and spread the terror of his name on all sides.

**Combination against Haidar Ali.** The Nizam of the Deccan joined the Mahratta commander to crush this rising power ; and the English also joined this alliance, much to the vexation of the Court of Directors who attributed "this rage for negotiations, treaties and alliance," to the corruption of their servants. The allies began to move early in 1767. Haider Ali failed to stop the Mahrattas, whose light horse spread in every direction, in the heart of his country. He therefore commenced negotiations, and, by payment of 35 lakhs of rupees, detached the Mahrattas from the alliance. He also won over the Nizam ; and the English thus found themselves isolated, and in a critical position in the enemy's country.

The war was now of a desultory character. The western **First Mysore War.** portions of Haider's dominions were rapidly recovered by the English and as rapidly recovered by Haider ; and in other directions, also, the Mysore chief soon regained his losses. In course of some negotiations which took place, Haidar Ali candidly declared that he always wished to be on good terms with the English as he could not fight both them and the Mahrattas ; and he eagerly expressed

a desire for peace. The demands of the English, however, were very high, and Haider, therefore determined to conclude the war by a rapid and daring enterprise. Leaving the British army in his rear, he made a rapid sweep of 130 miles, in less than four days, and appeared within five miles of Madras. The Council of Madras was struck with panic, and agreed to Haider's demands. A treaty was concluded in April, 1769, on the condition of placing the possessions of both parties on the same footing as before the war. A defensive alliance was also entered into between the two powers.

Having concluded this treaty with one enemy, Haider turned <sup>Haider Ali and the Mahrattas.</sup> against another. The Mahrattas had again entered his kingdom and were laying his territory waste with a vast army, and Haider found himself powerless to resist these desultory invaders, who penetrated as far as his capital Seringapatam. He, therefore, again bought them off by payment of 15 lakhs of rupees, and by ceding a great part of his northern dominions. The English had not helped Haider in this war, according to the terms of the treaty of 1769, and Haider, therefore, harboured a deep resentment against them, as we shall see hereafter. In the meantime, he continued to extend his dominions by conquests in various directions.

## CHAPTER XII

### ASCENDENCY OF BRITISH POWER.

#### A. D. 1772 to 1805.

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### HASTINGS.

IN 1772, WARREN HASTINGS was appointed Governor of Bengal. The administration of the country needed immediate

Judicial and Revenue arrangements. attention, and the important administrative reforms of Hastings may be briefly mentioned here. The actual collection of revenue was

taken from the hands of ill-paid and corrupt officials and placed in the hands of well-paid European Collectors, who since then have been the heads of districts. Hastings also established a civil and a criminal court in each district, and the district Collector presided at these courts, assisted by Hindu and Musalman officials. The arbitrary and oppressive administration of justice by local Zemindars and by low-paid Fouzdarss was thus abolished ; but the European Judges continued for a long time to be entirely in the hands of their corrupt and low-paid subordinates, and the administration of justice thus continued to be polluted by corruption. The new courts, also, acting without the co-operation of the people, failed to repress crime. Dakaits ravaged the country, often with the connivance of the Zemindars and the Thanadars, and the measures adopted to check this offence were inadequate. Two Courts of Appeal were established in Calcutta, viz., the Sudder Dewani Adalat, for civil cases and the Sudder Nizamut Adalat, for criminal cases.

Hastings now took steps to improve the revenue of the Company. He stopped the stipulated tribute of 26 lakhs to the Emperor, on the ground that the Emperor was no longer his own master, but had been seized by the Mahrattas. And he cut

Reduction of allowances to the Emperor and Nawab.

down the stipulated pension of the Nawab of Murshidabad to one-half.

The want of funds led Hastings into many questionable acts. Allahabad and Kora had been granted **Sale of Kora and Allahabad.** to the Emperor by Clive; Hastings considered the act cancelled, because the Emperor was a prisoner, and sold those provinces to Nawab of Oudh for fifty lakhs of rupees. The Nawab further desired to crush his neighbours, the Rohillas, and asked Hastings for an English brigade, and Hastings consented to lend the services of an English brigade for the sum of forty lakhs of rupees, beside **Aid to the Nawab of Oudh in the Rohilla War.** expenses. In 1774, the English brigade, under Champion, marched into the Rohilla country, accompanied by the Nawab and his army, and defeated the Rohillas in battle. When the victory was won by the English, the Nawab let loose his troops to plunder the unhappy country with every kind of atrocity, barbarity, and violence. The power of the Rohillas was broken for ever, and the son of the late Rohilla leader became a vassal of the Nawab of Oudh; and the family still flourishes as the Nawabs of Rampur. Champion's brigade received a bonus of ten lakhs and a half from the Nawab.

A great change in administration was introduced in 1773. **Regulating Act.** The British Parliament was little disposed to interfere with the concerns of the Company so long as the Company was managing a few obscure factories in India. But when large provinces were acquired for the Company by Clive, and when the dreadful famine of 1770-71 drew the attention of Englishmen to Indian affairs, it was felt that Parliamentary interference was necessary. Accordingly in 1773 was passed the Regulating Act, which vested the government of Bengal, Behar and Orissa in a Governor-General and four Councillors, made Bombay and Madras subordinate to the Bengal Presidency, and established in Calcutta a Supreme Court, consisting of a Chief Justice and three other Judges. The great fortunes acquired by the

Company's servants in India were also looked upon with displeasure and indignation by Englishmen at home, and it was now enacted that no servants, either of the King or the Company, should be allowed to receive presents.

In 1774, Hastings was made Governor-General of India Governor-General and his Council. under the Regulating Act, but his troubles began with this increase in his dignity. The old Council of Calcutta was abolished, and a new Council of five members was constituted. Hastings as Governor-General was president, and Barwell, a servant of the Company, was appointed a member. The three other members, Clavering, Monson and Philip Francis, came out from England. Francis, aided by Clavering and Monson, commenced to attack Hastings in the new Council ; and forming the majority, they for a time wielded all real power.

As the power of Hastings declined in his Council, various charges were brought against him. The Rani Execution of Nandakumar. of Burdwan, widow of Tilak Chand, complained of the corrupt administration of her estates by the Company's servants, and papers were produced showing a present of Rs. 15,000 to Hastings, a miserable and highly improbable charge. The Foujdar of Hugli was accused with having paid Rs. 36,000 annually to Hastings, but the charge was never proved. A present of a lakh-and-a-half from Mani Begam of Murshidabad was said to have been received by Hastings, and Hastings after his retirement from India admitted this charge, but pleaded that he had received it as "entertainment money," according to the custom of the country. Lastly Raja Nandakumar brought a graver charge, that Hastings had received over  $3\frac{1}{2}$  lakhs from Mani Begam, and from his own son Gurudas on the occasion of their appointment to their posts at Murshidabad. Hastings declined to meet these charges in the Council. He brought an action against Nandakumar in the Supreme Court of Calcutta for conspiracy ; the charge was admitted and Nandakumar was released on bail. Six weeks after Nandakumar was arrested for forgery, and

condemned to be hanged by Sir Elijah Impey, the new Chief Justice of Bengal, and a friend of Hastings.

Raja Nandakumar was hanged in Calcutta in 1775. The opponents of Hastings in the Council were humbled, and no other charges were brought. And after the death of Monson, Hastings was able to carry his measures by his casting vote, and was for a time supreme in the Council. Affairs in Bombay now engaged his attention.

We have seen before that soon after the disastrous battle of Paniput, the third Peshwa, Balaji Rao, died in 1761. His son, Madhu Rao, succeeded, and, who, in his turn, was succeeded by his brother Narayan in 1772, but he was assassinated through the instigation of Raghunath Rao, his uncle. The widow of Narayan gave birth to a boy, and the Mahrattas thus became divided into two parties, *viz.*, that of Raghunath who aspired to be Peshwa; and that of the rightful heir, Narayan's infant boy, who was supported by the able minister, Nana Farnavis.

Raghunath applied to the English of Bombay for aid, promising the port of Bassein with Salsette <sup>Treaty of Surat.</sup> and other islands; and the English took up his side in the quarrel to obtain the spoil. The treaty of Surat was concluded in 1775, the Bombay Government took possession of Salsette and Bassein, and began preparations for helping Raghunath to the dignity and post of Peshwa.

Hastings and his Council strongly condemned the treaty <sup>Treaty of Purandar.</sup> of Surat as unjust in itself and contrary to the policy of avoiding interference with the concerns of the Indian states. Colonel Upton was sent direct from Bengal to conclude a fresh treaty. The treaty of Purandar was accordingly concluded in 1776 by which the English undertook to withdraw from the side of Raghunath, but they retained Bassein and Salsette.

Treaty of Surat approved. First Mahratta war. Another change in the policy of the English took place soon after. The court of Directors approved of the treaty of Surat, and it was ultimately decided to continue the war in favour of Raghunath against the Puna Government. The Bombay army advanced towards Puna, but was met by a large Mahratta army, and was compelled to retreat.

But retreat in the face of a Mahratta army is a hazardous undertaking, and the English commanders were compelled to enter into the humiliating convention of Wargaon, by which they agreed to restore their recent acquisitions.

Convention of Wargaon. The action of the commanders was strongly disapproved both in India and in England. They were dismissed, the convention of Wargaon was annulled, and it was decided to prosecute the war.

Goddard, sent from Bengal by Hastings, reached Gujurat and took Ahmedabad. He then advanced towards Puna, but was harassed by the enemy, and compelled to retreat to Bombay with severe loss.

Treaty of Salbai. Captain Popham, who had also been sent by Hastings, distinguished himself by taking Gwalior. After various other transactions, a general peace terminated the war. The infant Madhu Rao II. was recognized as Peshwa; the able minister, Nana Farnavis, who had conducted this war against the English, and his Council of Regency were recognized; and Raghunath was allowed a monthly pension of Rs. 25,000. Salsette was retained by the English, but the other conquests were restored to the Mahrattas. This treaty of Salbai was concluded in 1781.

Quarrels between Philip Francis and Hastings had broken out afresh from time to time, and had reached their climax in 1780. A duel ensued, Francis was wounded,

and left India for Europe, and Hastings was left supreme in the Council.

While these things were happening in Calcutta, and while the first Mahratta War was still going on in the west the English at Madras were drawn into a fresh war. Haidar Ali had not forgotten the indifference and inactivity of the English at the time of the invasion of his dominions by the Mahrattas. And when war broke out between the English and the French, and the former took Pondicherry and announced their intention of taking the French settlement of Mahe on the Malabar Coast, Haidar Ali protested, and urged that the country round Mahe was his territory. The English considered this argument insufficient and took the French fort.

Madras at this time was a prey to misgovernment and corruption, and was wholly unprepared to prosecute the war. The servants of the Company had entered into usurious pecuniary transactions with the Nawab of Arcot, and the Nawab wanted to annex the kingdom of the Raja of Tanjore to pay their demands. The governor of Madras deposed the Raja and made over his kingdom to the Nawab, an unjust act for which he was dismissed by the Court of Directors. Lord Pigot now succeeded as Governor and restored Tanjore to the Raja, but his council was torn by dissensions. A majority in the council recommended arrangements in Tanjore which would facilitate the recovery of the claim ; and the Governor, Lord Pigot, who resisted the action of the majority, was arrested and confined.\*

\*The subsequent history of the claims against the Nawab is remarkable. Benfield and others had amassed large fortunes and created great influence in Parliament, and all their claims were therefore admitted *without inquiry*. The sums paid up to all claimants up to 1804 amounted to near five millions sterling.

Other creditors of the Nawab then came forward with more claims, but this time *an inquiry was made*, as the money was payable by the Company after the Nawab was pensioned off in 1801. Claims to the extent of over thirty millions were adjudicated upon, a little over 2½ millions was admitted, the rest was rejected as false.

The Court of Directors directed the restoration of Lord Pigot, and also ordered his recall immediately after his restoration ; but Lord Pigot had died after a confinement of eight months.

Sir Thomas Rumbold who succeeded gave little satisfaction. Much oppression was caused to the zemindars, and especially to the Raja of Vizianagram ; Sir Thomas was openly charged with corruption ; and the Court of Directors dismissed him for various faults in 1781. Lord Macartney, a nobleman of acknowledged integrity and honour, succeeded him.

The above facts will shew that the Madras authorities were utterly unprepared to prosecute the war with Haidar. Hastings undertook that onerous task and he performed it with his untiring energy and usual vigour.

In June, 1780, Haidar took the field with a vast army of about 90,000 troops ; and in July, black columns of smoke, within a few miles of Madras, announced to the English that the enemy was at their gates. Sir Hector Monro was near Conjeveram and Colonel Baillie tried to join him, but Haidar interposed his whole army between the two divisions of the English army, then only fourteen miles from each other. He attacked Baillie's division consisting of nearly 4,000 men, destroyed the greater portion of it, and took the rest prisoners. The small number of survivors would probably have been massacred but for the exertions of Lally and other French officers under Haidar, who strongly interceded for their lives.

Hastings, on hearing of this disaster, sent Sir Eyre Coote to Madras, and he took the field with 7,000 men. After many harassing marches, he at last met Haidar at Porto Novo, and signally defeated his vast army after a contest of six hours. Haidar retreated and took up his post at Polilloor, the spot where he had destroyed Colonel Baillie's troops. Sir Eyre Coote fought him there, but

**Baillie's Division destroyed.**

**Battle of Porto Novo.**

**Battle of Polilloor.**

the battle was more sanguinary than decisive, and was considered a drawn battle. Haidar next took up his post at Sholinghur. He was there beaten by Sir Eyre Coote, but succeeded in saving his guns.

**Battle of Sholinghur.** But while these victories crowned the British arms, another **Brathwaite's troops destroyed.** disaster was at hand. Colonel Brathwaite gained some success at Tanjore, but Haidar's army, more than ten times in number surprised him, and all his troops were destroyed or made prisoners after a brave resistance for three days.

**Battle of Arnee.** Haider was now joined by a strong contingent of French troops, and there was an action at Arnee. Haidar succeeded in reinforcing the garrison of the place, and in carrying off the treasure, and then retired with little loss as the English advanced. This was the last action between Sir Eyre Coote and Haider. Sir Eyre was advanced in age and suffering in health, and he set sail for Bengal in September, 1782. Haidar too was advanced in age, and died in December, 1782.

**Death of Haidar Ali.** In the following April, Sir Eyre Coote returned to Madras to resume the command, but he died three days after his arrival at Madras.

Tipu was recognized as the successor of his father, and had at his disposal an army of 88,000 troops. But he went to prosecute the war on the Western Coast, leaving the Karnatic to the English and the French.

The war between the English and the French now assumed a serious aspect. France sent out a powerful squadron under Suffren, the greatest of her admirals, and nearly 3,000 men under the same Bussy who had fought to English in the Karnatic thirty years before. Suffren drove the British fleet to Madras, and landed his men; and he concerted measures with Bussy to annihilate the British army.

Never had the prospects of the British in Southern India been more gloomy. The annihilation of the British army by Bussy, and Suffren was now a certainty, and "this," says Professor Wilson

**Peace between the English & the French.**

"would have been followed by the seige of Madras, and there was little chance of defending it successfully against Tipu and the French." But at this moment, intelligence was received of peace having been concluded between England and France, and hostilities were stopped in India. "It seems probably," says Wilson, "that but for the opportune occurrence of peace with France, the south of India would have been lost to the English.

Tipu was now left to fight the English alone. Proceeding

Capitulation of General Mathews. from the Western Coast, General Mathews had taken Bednore, but Tipu surrounded him, and Mathews had to capitulate. Shortly after a treaty of peace

Peace with Mysore. was concluded in 1783, by which both parties retained their former possessions.

During the long war with the Mahrattas and with Mysore

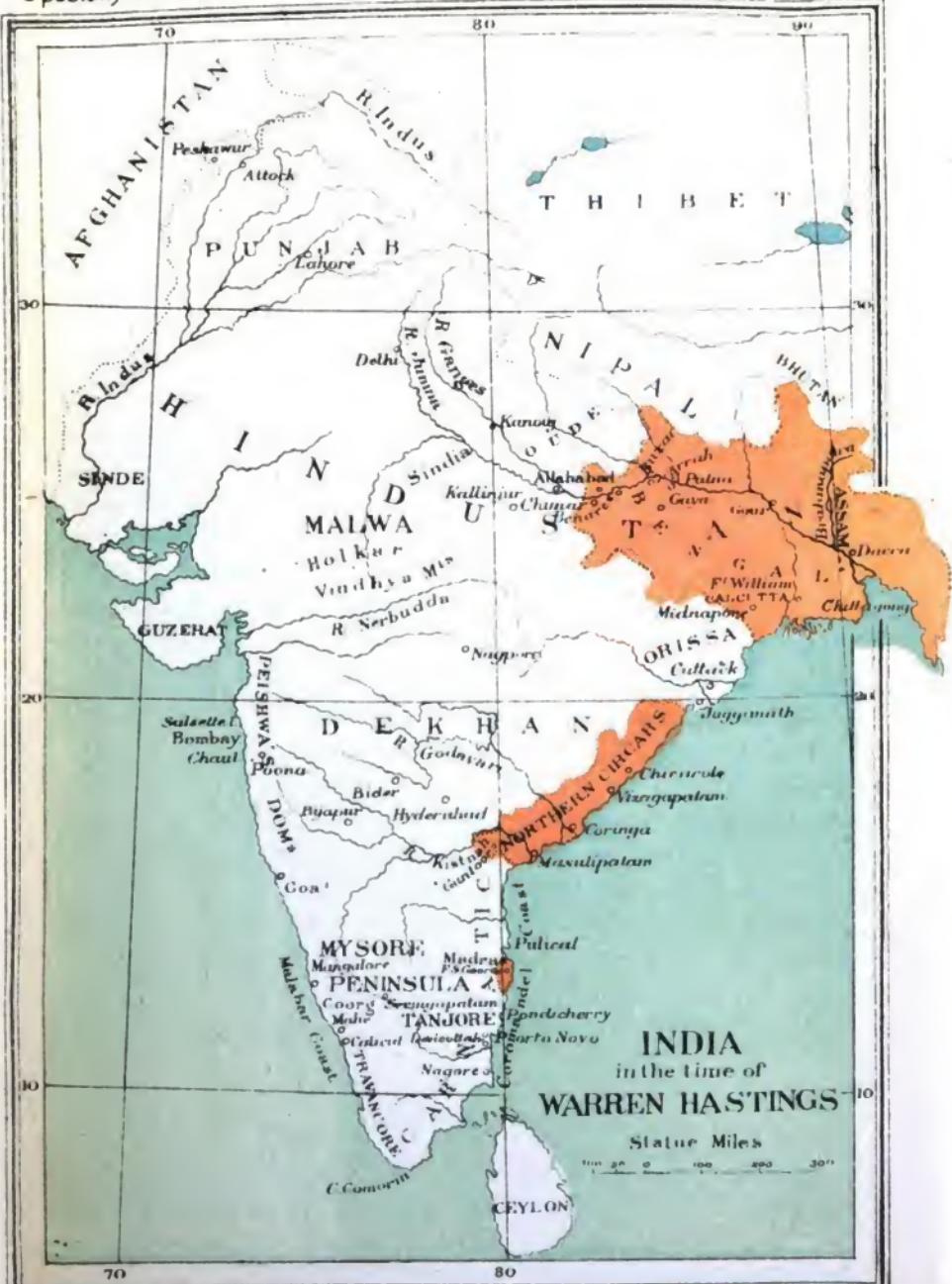
Chait Sinha. Hastings was repeatedly in want of funds, and was betrayed into unjust acts for which

he was tried on his return to England. Chait Sinha, Raja of Benares, held that place on the payment of a tribute to the British. The Raja paid the usual annual tribute of 200,000 pounds to the Government, but Hastings, when pressed for funds, demanded an extraordinary contribution of £50,000. The Raja paid the contribution in 1778 and again in 1779, and in 1780 the same contribution, with a fine of £10,000 for delay, was exacted.

Hastings now required the Raja to keep a body of cavalry for the British Government. The Raja was in dismay and offered £200,000 to propitiate the Government. Hastings now demanded half a million. He came to Benares, and as the money was not paid, the Raja was unjustly arrested and placed in the custody of troops.

The people of Benares rose at this outrage to their Raja, and killed the British troops; the Raja escaped from custody; and Hastings escaped for personal safety to Chunar. Chait Sinha was then defeated and deposed, his nephew was installed in his place, and the tribute of Benares was doubled. The

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treasures of Chait Sinha which Hastings had hoped to secure had however been seized by the British army, and the army refused to give it up.

By the treaty of 1775, subsidy payable by the Nawab of **Begams of Oudh.** Oudh had been largely increased, and Hastings now called upon the new Nawab of Oudh to pay up the arrears. The Nawab urged that he could not pay unless he was placed in possession of the treasures which had passed into the hands of the two Begams of Oudh.

The Begams were the mother and the grand mother of the Nawab, and had received a guarantee from the British Government against such demands. The guarantee was now ignored, and their estates were resumed. The Begams themselves were confined in their palace, their two agents, who were persons of rank and distinction, were arrested and put in irons, and considerable pressure was put on them, until over a million sterling was extorted.

In 1785, Hastings resigned his office and left India. On his return to England, he was impeached by the house of **Trial of Hastings.** Commons before the Lords, for his conduct towards Chait Sinha and the Begams of Oudh, as well as for corruption and for extravagant expenditure. The proceedings dragged on for seven years, after which a verdict of 'not guilty' was given by the Lords on all the charges. The verdict of the House of Commons, however, was felt by Hastings as a stain on his reputation, and was never withdrawn. And Hastings never obtained the coveted peerage, or any office of trust under the crown.\*

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### CORNWALLIS.

After the departure of Hastings the Court of Directors decided to send a nobleman of rank and of high character as

\* He lived a private life to a ripe old age at Daylesford, and died in 1818.

Governor-General, and they chose Lord Cornwallis. The prestige of his rank enabled him to carry into effect great reforms which Clive and Hastings had attempted ; he abolished the private gains which the Company's servants derived from various sources ; he compelled the Court of Directors to allow them large salaries ; and he set a wholesome example by his own elevated character, which had much influence on English society in India.

A great change in the power of the Court of Directors had, Pitt's India Bill. in the meantime, been effected. In August, 1784, Mr. Pitt's Bill for the Better Government of India was passed, and under this Act, a Board of Control, composed of six members chosen by the king, was formed for the proper control of all matters relating to the civil, military and revenue administration of India. Thus the Directors and Proprietors of the Company surrendered their power to govern India to the English nation and the English government, and the President of the Board of Control was, in reality a Secretary of State for Indian affairs.

The great administrative act of Cornwallis in India was the Permanent Settlement of Bengal. Hastings had allowed the local zamindars to hold their lands on leases for five years at fixed rates ; and whenever a zeminder did not agree to his rates, he was ousted, and his lands were let to the highest bidder. This harsh system failed, many zemindars were unable to pay the revenues fixed and their lands were taken from them and let on yearly leases. Many old families in Bengal were thus ruined, and many new houses oppressed their ryots to meet the demands of the Government.

Lord Cornwallis effected a Permanent Settlement. The scheme was worked out by Mr. Shore, afterwards Governor-General of India. The assessment was made from 1789 to 1791, not by actual measurement of land, but by a reference to what had been paid in the past, and the total came to about 268 lakhs of rupees.

The settlement was at first made for ten years, but both Permanent Settlement. Cornwallis and the Court of Directors wished to make it permanent, and it was made permanent in 1793.

The settlement has proved to be an unqualified boon to the country. Since then cultivation has largely extended, the income from lands has greatly increased, and the increase has remained with the people, and for the good of the people. The settlement has given a fixity to the value of landed property in Bengal ; it has raised the middle classes of Bengal by a distribution of the profits from land through various means ; it has conducted to the well-being of the cultivators themselves by preventing undue exactions from them by zemindars ; and it has helped the cause of progress and enlightenment by securing the material well-being of the people. It must be admitted, however, that the protection given to the cultivating classes was found inadequate ; and this defect had to be remedied by latter legislation.

Lord Cornwallis effected other reforms which Hastings had only begun. Under the system introduced by Administrative Reforms. Hastings, the District Collector performed both revenue and judicial work. Cornwallis disapproved of this system, the duties of the Collector were now confined to revenue work, and a senior officer was appointed in each district as Judge for judicial work, both civil and criminal. The Judges ordinarily heard civil cases and went on circuit to try criminal cases. Four appellate courts were established at Calcutta, Dacca, Murshidabad and Patna ; while the Sudder Dewani Adalat and the Sudder Nizamat Adalat at Calcutta formed a higher tribunal for final appeals.

Mahomedan law with some modifications continued to be administered in criminal matters ; while, in civil cases, Hindu law was administered for Hindus, and Mahomedan law for Mahomedans.

Other matters now received the attention of Cornwallis. Tipu Sultan of Mysore had carried on a system of religious

persecution against the Christians of Canara, the Hindus of Coorg, and the Nairs of Calicut. He forcibly made converts by tens of thousands in each place, and destroyed, according to his own account, eight thousand temples in the Calicut territory. He then attacked Travancore, which was under British protection and Lord Cornwallis decided on war.

Madras was as unprepared for the war as it was in the time of Hastings. Lord Macartney had taken **State of Madras.** charge of the revenues of the Karnatic in order to prevent further usurious claims against the Nawab, but he was directed to restore the revenues, and he resigned and left India. Sir Archibald Campbell, who succeeded, concluded a treaty, for the punctual payment of the sums due to the Company; but they fell into arrears immediately after. Mr. Holland, who succeeded, was himself deeply implicated in loans to the Nawab of the Karnatic, and he demanded a large present from the Raja of Travancore as the price for help against Tipu. Lord Cornwallis charged him with neglect of duty and disobedience of orders in not helping Travancore; Mr. Holland resigned and sailed for Europe.

In 1790, General Meadows, who succeeded Mr. Holland **Third Mysore war.** as Governor of Madras, commenced the campaign, and though he displayed courage in the field, he could not effect much. In 1791, Cornwallis himself came to Madras and took the command. He was soon in the heart of Mysore, and took Bangalore. Cornwallis now advanced towards Seringapatam, but was compelled to retreat for want of supplies, the whole country having been laid waste. The Mahrattas now appeared, and Cornwallis had to give them a loan of twelve lakhs to keep them in good humour. The Mahratta army had, however, an ample supply of provisions, and the distress of the British army was relieved.

In 1792, Cornwallis appeared before Seringapatam, and besieged it. When Tipu found resistance hopeless, he sued for peace by surrendering half his dominions. He also paid 330 lakhs of rupees for the expenses of the war, and delivered

up two of his sons as hostages. The Mahrattas and the Nizam, who had rendered little help in this war, came in for their shares in the territories given up by Tipu. The English obtained a slice of country to the east, and south, and Calicut and Coorg to the west.

Lord Cornwallis had taken charge of the revenues of the Karnatic during the war. The war being now at an end, the revenues were again restored. It was settled that the Nawab should pay nine lakhs annually for the peace establishment; that he should pay six lakhs to his creditors; and that, on his failing to pay, the English would enter upon the receipt of the revenues from the kingdom.

Lord Cornwallis's task was done, and he left India in 1793, leaving behind him the reputation of a benevolent, just, and high-souled ruler, and a general of consummate abilities.

### SHORE.

Mr. Shore, the real author of the Permanent Settlement, now became Governor-General as Sir John Shore, and carefully avoided all interference with the Native States of India. The Nizam of Haidarabad asked the help of the English against the Mahrattas, but it was refused and the Nizam then employed a French officer, who raised for him a force of sepoy battalions trained by French officers. The affairs of the Mahrattas were, however, now directed by the profound political genius of Nana Farnavis, and the Nizam was beaten, and lost half his kingdom. The misgovernment of Oudh called forth vain protests from Sir John Shore, and soon after he left India in March, 1798, having been raised to the peerage as Lord Teignmouth.

The period for the renewal of the Company's Charter arrived in 1793, and Indian affairs were once more discussed in Parliament. All the leading features of Mr. Pitt's Bill of 1784 were upheld, the powers of the Board of Control in England, and the powers of the

Governor-General and his Council and of the Governors of Madras and Bombay and their Councils were maintained. The Charter was renewed for 20 years with one great innovation. To meet the loud protests of the other mercantile houses of England against the monopoly of the Company, it was provided that the East-India Company should afford annually 3,000 tons of shipping, in which private merchants might, on their own account, trade with India. This was the first blow against the Company's monopoly of Eastern trade.

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### WELLESLEY.

Lord Mornington, better known by his later title of Wellesley, succeeded Lord Teignmouth. The French Revolution and the wars of Napoleon Bonaparte had aroused bitter feelings between the English and the French, and Mornington was resolved to stamp out French influence in India. His first important act was to compel the Nizam of Hyderabad to disband his French battalions, and to maintain an English force in its place. Tipu Sultan had opened negotiations with the French, and Lord Mornington demanded fresh securities from Tipu, and declared war on not receiving satisfaction of his demand.

General Harris advanced on Mysore with 200,000 troops  
Fourth Mysore War. besides 16,000 men belonging to the Nizam and now under British command. He was accompanied by the Governor-General's brother Colonel Arthur Wellesley, afterwards the famous Duke of Wellington. Early in 1799, he entered the Mysore territory and took Seringapatam. Tipu gallantly resisted the English as they stormed his fort, and fell fighting with the assailants.

Large slices of the Mysore dominions were taken by the English and the Nizam, and the remainder, was formed into a kingdom and restored to the ancient Hindu family of Mysore. A boy of five years belonging to that family was placed on the throne; it was arranged that the whole military force for the

defence of the country should be English ; that seven lakhs of Pagodas should be paid annually for the maintenance of this force ; and that, in case of misgovernment, the Company should have the power to take the administration into their own hands. The result of the Mysore War was hailed with joy in England and Lord Mornington received the title of Marquis of Wellesley.

After the conclusion of the Mysore War a treaty was concluded with the Nizam of the Deccan.

in 1800 by which the British army, subsidized for the protection of the Nizam, was increased ; and the Nizam ceded for its maintenance the territory obtained from Mysore ; and undertook not to make war or to enter into negotiations with other powers without the sanction of the English. A portion of the territory conquered from Mysore was reserved for the Peshwa if he would enter into such a "subsidiary alliance" with the English ; but the Peshwa declined to surrender his freedom, and the territory was accordingly divided between the English and the Nizam.

The Nawab of Surat died in January, 1799, and the Government recognized the claim of his brother to inheritance. In March, 1800, however, the Governor-General directed that the government and revenues of Surat should be assumed by the English. This was done, and Nawab retired on an annual pension of a lakh of Rupees, besides a fifth of the surplus revenues.

The Raja of Tanjore died in 1787, and was succeeded by his son Amar Sinha. In 1798, it was discovered that the legal heir to the throne was Sarbaji, whom the former Raja had adopted. Amar Sinha was dethroned, and Sarbaji was made to resign the powers of government to the English, and retired on an annual pension of a lakh of Pagodas and a fifth of the surplus revenues.

The Nawab of Karnatic died in 1881. His successor declined to abdicate the powers of government and was set

aside ; and another prince was set up and made to resign the powers of government to the English, retiring on a pension of one-fifth of the net revenue of the Karnatic.

Negotiations went on with the Nawab of Oudh for three years. Lord Wellesley in 1881 sent two Oudh. alternative proposals to the Nawab. It was desired that the Nawab should either transfer to the Company the exclusive management of the civil and military government of the country, or cede to the Company a portion of his territories adequate for the subsidy due for the British troops. After a great deal of negotiations, the Nawab reluctantly gave his consent to the second proposal, and by the treaty of November 1881, ceded over half his kingdom with a revenue of 135 lakhs to the British, retaining territory with a revenue of about 100 lakhs of rupees for himself.

The Nawab of Farakkabad was a minor, and the termination of his minority was approaching. Lord Wellesley wished to make an arrangement suitable to his own views, and the Nawab was urged to vest the civil and military government in the hands of the British. The Nawab protested against the proposal, but was ultimately compelled to accept it. The administration passed into the hands of the Company, and an annual pension of one lakh and eight thousand rupees was granted to the Nawab in 1802.

All the chiefs and great powers of India except the Mahrattas, were thus brought under British control.

The affairs of the Mahrattas now engaged the attention of Five Mahratta Wellesley. We have seen before, that on the powers. death of Narayan Rao his infant son Madhu Rao II. was made Peshwa, and was recognized by the English at the treaty of Salbai. This young prince committed suicide, and was succeeded by Baji Rao son of the same Raghunath who had in vain tried to be Peshwa by the help of the British. The aged and the able minister Nana Farnavis died in 1800, and Peshwa Baji Rao was thus released from that minister's vast influence and power.

Sindia now wielded a greater power than the Peshwa. After the death of Ranaji Sindia, the founder of the family, his son Mahdaji Sindia had risen to great power and fame and had drawn the exile Emperor Shah Alam from Allahabad and placed him on the throne of Delhi. His capital Gwalior was taken by Captain Popham as we have seen before, but was restored to him when peace was concluded. After his death, he was succeeded by Daulat Rao Sindia, a somewhat indolent and unsteady chief; but he inherited his father's immense power. He had an army trained by French officers, held Delhi and the Doab, and was the most powerful among the Mahratta chiefs of his time.

Holkar was also a great power. Malhar Rao Holkar who founded the kingdom, died in 1767. His son's widow, Ahalya Bai, carried on the administration for eighteen years with an ability and righteousness which have made her name a household word among the Hindus. She transformed the village of Indore into a large and wealthy capital and died in 1795. Her commander-in-chief was Tukaji Holkar, and Tukaji's son Jaswant Rao Holkar wielded great power at the time of which we are now speaking.

Two other Mahratta houses also wielded great power as we have stated in a previous chapter. The Bhonslas had their capital at Nagpur, ruled in Berar and held Orissa. The Gaekwars ruled in Gujerat and had their capital at Baroda.

The Peshwa, Sindia, Holkar, the Bhonsla and the <sup>Treaty of</sup> <sub>Bassein.</sub> Gaekwar were thus the five great Mahratta powers. There were constant wars among them, and Jaswant Rao Holkar defeated the combined army of the Peshwa and Sindia in 1802. The Peshwa, in his distress, at last accepted the "subsidiary alliance" which the Governor-General had in vain been pressing on him so long. He repaired to Bassein where he signed the treaty of Bassein with the English on the 31st December, 1802. By this treaty he undertook to hold no communication with the other powers without the consent of the British Govern-

ment; he ceded a territory for the maintenance of a British subsidiary force; and he consented to the establishment of this force at Puna. General Wellesley reached Puna. Baji Rao was conducted to Puna, and installed as Peshwa by the English with great pomp.

Sindia and Bhonsla were taken aback by this treaty which enabled the English to interfere in Mahratta affairs. They called on Holkar to make common cause against the English, but Holkar preferred to watch the march of events. Sindia and Bhonsla were then on the frontiers of the Nizam's dominions, and General Wellesley, who was at Puna, demanded that the former should retire beyond the Nurbudda, and the latter to his capital at Nagpur. They replied that they were willing to withdraw if the English would withdraw to Madras and Bombay. Nothing came of these negotiations, and Sir Arthur Wellesley commenced operations.

In September 1803, he came on the combined army of Sindia and Bhonsla near the village of Assye, on the Nizam's frontier. The Mahratta army had 38,000 cavalry and 18,000 infantry; Sir Arthur Wellesley had a much smaller force but he determined to attack the enemy. The Mahratta artillery opened a destructive fire but the British infantry, European and Sepoy, advanced in the face of the fire and bore down all opposition. The British suffered a heavy loss of over two thousand in killed and wounded, but the victory was complete, and established the fame of the young general who was destined to win brighter laurels in Europe.

Sindia now sued for peace and the terms of an armistice were arranged. The British General next went against the Bhonsla and in November found him and his army on the plains of Argaon. The Mahratta army was defeated, a strong hill-fort was taken, and the Bhonsla sued for peace. Treaty of Deogaon was accordingly signed in December,

1803. The Raji of Nagpur gave up the maritime district of Cuttack to the British, and some territory, on the Warda river, known as Berar, was taken from him and added to the Nizam's dominions.

General Lake met with success equally brilliant in the north, where Sindia was the virtual master of Delhi and the Doab. Mahdaji Sindia's army had been disciplined by an eminent Frenchman, De Boigne, and he was succeeded by Perron, who served under Daulat Rao Sindia and held the Doab. Perron virtually ruled the Doab, collected a revenue of 80 lakhs, and maintained the supremacy of Sindia in Northern India. But the weak and unsteady Daulat Rao began to be jealous of this faithful servant, and Perron was disgusted with this want of confidence, and intended to resign his service at once.

General Lake commenced operations in these provinces ~~Aligarh and Delhi~~ and stormed Aligarh. Perron, in the meantime, had been superseded in command, and gave up his service under Sindia. Lord Wellesley had expressed his wish to purchase the surrender of the military resources under Perron, and the latter could have obtained a large sum if he had consented to transfer to the English the resources entrusted to him. But he declined to be a traitor to his master, even though he had received ungracious treatment; and he retired with the humble fortune of a private individual. After taking Aligarh, Lake marched on Delhi, defeated Sindia's troops, and triumphantly entered the capital of India in September, 1803.

The old Emperor, Shah Alam, who had so long been under the protection of Sindia, welcomed the English as his new protectors. The English treated him with respect, courtesy and kindness.

General Lake now advanced upon Agra and took that city in October, 1803, and the immense treasure ~~Agra taken.~~ found there, amounting to £280,000, was distributed among the troops as prize money. Lake then went

in pursuit of the remaining force of Sindia, overtook it at <sup>Battle of</sup> Laswari and signally defeated it, though with a severe loss to the British army. The powerful army of Sindia in Northern India, trained by De Boigne and Perron, was thus completely annihilated, and Sindia now sued for peace. In December, 1803, he signed a treaty ceding to the English the territory between the Ganges and the Jumna with some possessions to the west of the Jumna, including Delhi and Agra.

<sup>Treaty with</sup>  
Sindia, Delhi,  
Agra and the  
Doab acquired  
by the English.

The year 1803 is a memorable year in the history of India. In this year the Mahratta power was broken in the south by General Wellesley, and in the north by General Lake, and the English became the master of Delhi and Agra and the supreme power in India. In one word, the Mahratta Empire in India was supplanted by the British Empire.

The great power of Holkar and his own shattered resources induced Sindia to form a "subsidiary alliance" with the English. He agreed to avail himself of 6,000 British troops, but without the payment of any subsidy, and was not even stipulated that the troops would be stationed in his dominions. So anxious was Lord Wellesley to conclude such an alliance with Sindia, that he consented in this instance, to lend the services of British troops without any kind of return.

Jaswant Rao Holkar who had so long watched the course of affairs, not without a hope of deriving some advantages from the losses of Sindia, was staggered at the brilliant successes of the English, and hastily determined to check their further rise in power. He invited Sindia to join him against the common enemy.

Holkar's first attempts were crowned with success. Colonel <sup>Monson's retreat.</sup> Monson was left with small army to watch his movements, and feeling his position critical, resolved on retreat. A retreat before a Mahratta army is always perilous, and after a disastrous retreat, and loss of all

artillery and baggage, Monson at last reached Agra in 1804, in miserable plight.

Holkar took Mathura and then advanced upon Delhi, but ~~Battle of Deeg.~~ was unable to take the place. The Jat Raja of Bharatpur had now sided with Holkar, and his fortress at Deeg afforded a convenient shelter to Holkar's army. General Lake sent an army against Holkar and an obstinate battle was fought at Deeg, in which Holkar's army was completely defeated, and took shelter within the fort. In the meantime General Lake himself chased Holkar across the Jumna, and that chief at last joined his army at Deeg. Lake arrived there, and took Deeg.

After the capture of Deeg it was considered necessary to take the fortress of Bharatpur. The place was besieged, and an obstinate attempt was made to storm it ; it was the only great attempt in which the British failed in this war. The defenders of Bharatpur fought with the most daring valour, and after a breach had been opened, they made it impracticable by stockades and other defences. The British were repulsed in four successive attempts and at last intermittent operations of the siege after a loss of over 3,000 men killed and wounded, a greater loss than had been sustained in any battle in this obstinately contested war. The Raja of Bharatpur did not, however, wait for the operations of the siege to be renewed ; he asked for peace and paid twenty lakhs of rupees, and deserted the side of Holkar. The English were glad of this peace, and promised him the restoration of Deeg.

The great successes of the British frightened all the Mahratta chiefs of India, and Sindia, in spite of his treaties, once more made common cause with Holkar against the English. On the other hand the Company were tired of these interminable wars, and their policy underwent a change.

The great scheme of annexations, conquests and subsidiary alliances, which Wellesley was consistently following, alarmed the Court of Directors, and so they sent out the peace-loving

Lord Cornwallis again as Governor General. His Lordship arrived in July, 1805, and shortly after, Wellesley left for England.

Wellesley's policy in India may be described in a few words. He pensioned off petty chiefs, and annexed their States ; and he formed "subsidiary alliances" with the large States, so as to establish British influence and British supremacy all over India. The Karnatic, Tanjore, Farakkabad and Surat were annexed ; Mysore, Oudh, the Deccan, and the Peshwa owned the supremacy of the British ; the Bhonsla, Sindia, and Holkar were humbled. And lastly, the Rajputs were glad to obtain British protection against Mahratta invasions.

Roughly speaking, Clive had acquired Bengal and Behar and Northern Circars ; Wellesley acquired Orissa, the Madras Presidency, and the North-western Provinces.

## CHAPTER XIII.

### CONSOLIDATION OF BRITISH POWER.

A. D. 1805 to 1835.

#### CORNWALLIS AND BARLOW.

CORNWALLIS came back to India with extreme views against the policy of his predecessor, but he did not live to give effect to them. On his way to the North-West, the scene of the war, he died in October, 1805. Sir George Barlow, a Civil Servant, acted as Governor-General until the arrival of Lord Minto in 1807.

During his administration a peace was concluded by General Lake with Jaswant Rao Holkar. All his territories were restored to him, except Tonk, and he undertook not to commit aggressions on the British Government or on its allies including the Rajputs. These were very favourable terms for Jaswant Rao, yet Barlow had taken up the non-intervention policy of Cornwallis, and he modified the treaty. He restored Tonk to Holkar and annulled the protective treaties with the Rajput chiefs.

A mutiny broke out among the Sepoys of Madras which was attributed to their being compelled to wear a sort of head-dress which they disliked, and some other similar innovations of a trifling nature. The mutiny was soon quelled, but the Court of Directors held Lord William Bentinck responsible for the innovations, and recalled him from his post as Governor of Madras. They made amends for this injustice by appointing that great and good nobleman Governor-General of India twenty-two years after.

Peace with  
Holkar.

## MINTO.

Lord Minto arrived as Governor-General of India in 1807. A great power had now arisen in the Punjab and Lord Minto desired to conciliate that power, as the probability of Napoleon Bonaparte's invading India by the Punjab was then discussed.

We have elsewhere spoken of the rise of the Sikhs and their *Ranjit Sinha.* persecution under the Mogul emperors. The

nation was now united by the genius and abilities of Ranjit Sinha. That chief was born in 1780, and, in his twentieth year, had been appointed Governor of Lahore by the Afghan king. But he soon threw off the Afghan yoke and made the Punjab independent. He organized the Sikh army under European officers, and spread his conquests to Multan in the south, to Peshawar in the west, and to Kashmir in the north. On the east, he made aggressions on the principalities between the Sutlej and the Jumna, but these principalities were under British protection, and Lord Minto sent Charles Metcalfe to conduct negotiations with Ranjit Sinha. Ranjit was induced to withdraw his troops from beyond the Sutlej, and that river formed the boundary between the Sikh dominions and the states under British protection.

Lord Minto also sent Colonel Malcolm to Persia and Mountstuart Elphinstone to Afghanistan to counteract the supposed designs of Napoleon Bonaparte.

The system of administration organized by Hastings and *Administration.* Cornwallis proved a failure. European Judges were unable to cope with their work, civil and criminal; and arrears became so numerous, and decisions were delayed so long, as to amount to a virtual failure of justice. The opinion was then advanced by some of the ablest of the Company's servants that it was impossible to remedy the defect without a more extended employment of the people of the country.

The failure in the Police department was even more signal than in judicial matters. The zemindars and others who had in former times preserved in a somewhat rude fashion the peace

of the country, had been deprived of police powers ; and the Darogas who were entrusted with the work were incompetent and corrupt. The crime of Dakaiti increased to an alarming degree, and from 1800 to 1810 the province of Bengal was kept in perpetual alarm. Sir Henry Strachy, Circuit Judge of the District of Calcutta, wrote that 4,000 convicts, nine-tenths of whom were Dakaits, were confined in his division in 1802. "Since 1793," he said, "crimes of all kinds are increased, and I think most crimes are still increasing."

To remedy this state of things, two Superintendents of Police Were appointed over the Darogas, one for Bengal and one for the Western Provinces, and Magistrates were armed with special powers. But these vigorous measures became, as Professor wilson states, "as severe a scourge to the country as the Dakaits themselves." *Goendas* or informes were employed, and these unscrupulous spies levied black-mail all over the country, and informed against thousands of innocent persons. Thousands of villagers were apprehended on suspicion and kept in long confinement.

Lord Minto left India in 1813, and was succeeded by Lord Moira, better known by his later title of Marquis of Hastings.

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## HASTINGS.

It was in this year, 1813, that the Company's Charter was <sup>Renewal of Charter.</sup> again renewed. The feeling in England against the Company's monopoly had now grown so strong that the monopoly in regard to Eastern trade generally was abolished, and private merchants were allowed to trade with India and the East, subject to certain restrictions made for the security of the Company. Only the Company's monopoly of trade in tea in China was continued. On these conditions the Company's Charter was renewed for another twenty years.

Affairs in Nepal attracted the attention of the new Governor-General. Nepal was originally inhabited by the Newars who were Buddhists.

Nepal.

In 1767, *i. e.*, ten years after the battle of Plassy, the Gurkhas, a strong and sturdy race, and Hindus by religion, overran the valley of the Khatmandu, and became masters of Nepal. Prithi Narayan was the head of the Gurkhas, and founded the Gurkha kingdom in Nepal. He was a cruel conqueror, and treated the timid Newars with great cruelty. After the death of Prithi Narayan the Gurkhas extended their invasions on all sides,—into Sikkim in the east, into Kumaon in the west, and even into Thibet in the north. They plundered Lhassa, but were beaten back by a Chinese army of 70,000 men, restored all the plunder obtained, and promised to pay tribute to China.

Rao Bahadur, the grandson of Prithi, took the administration into his own hands, and was as cruel as his grandfather. He married a Brahman widow, who soon died leaving an infant. Rao Bahadur abdicated and made this infant the king of Nepal. Subsequently, Bao Bahadur was murdered in 1804, his boy remained king and Bhim Sen Tappa wielded all the power in the State.

The frequent invasion of the British territory in the south by the Gurkha conquerors of Nepal led to protests. Two districts which had belonged to the Nawab of Oudh, and had been ceded to the British, were at last annexed by Nepal. Lord Minto sent an ultimatum that unless the districts were restored they would be recovered by force. The Nepal Government replied that the districts would not be surrendered. Lord Moira sent a British detachment and took possession of the districts. The Nepalese then sent a large force which attacked a small British guard stationed in the frontier, killed and wounded many of them, and then went back to Khatmandu.

War against Nepal was now commenced, and Generals Nepal War. Ochterlony and Gillespie were placed in command. Gillespie penetrated into the Dehra Doon valley and attacked the fortress of Kalanga, but

was killed in a brave attempt to storm the fortress. The fortress was defended by the Gurkhas until it was a heap of ruins, when they evacuated it. General Martindale, who succeeded Gillespie, attacked the enemy stationed at the strong fort of Jaitak, but was beaten back. The attempt which was made by another division to penetrate Nepal from Sarun also failed.

These events produced an alarm in Calcutta, but the fortunes of the British arms were retrieved by General Ochterlony's successes in Ochterlony. Ochterlony had fought under Sir 1814-15. Eyer Coote against Haidar Ali, and he had repulsed the attacks of Jaswant Rao Holkar on Delhi in 1804; and he brought the Nepal War to a satisfactory end. He compelled Amar Sinha the brave Gurkha General to retreat before him; he reduced Ramgarh and Bilaspur; and a detachment sent by him took Almora the capital of Kumaon. Amar Sinha was now closely besieged in the last fortress Maloun, and despairing of successful resistance, was compelled to capitulate, though on honourable terms.

The fall of Maloun frightened Bhim Sen Tappa, and he concluded a treaty, ceding all the provinces conquered by the British in the west, as well as the whole of the Terai. He also agreed to receive a British Resident at Khatmandu.

When all the negotiations were closed, and the military preparations were relaxed, a question arose if the Terai included the forest on the lower slopes of the Himalayas. The English insisted on the interpretation of the word, the Nepalese denied it, and the Governor-General now created Marquis of Hastings, recommenced the war.

Sir David Ochterlony, who had now been made a baronet, marched towards Khatmandu in 1816 with an army of twenty thousand men. Two successive defeats convinced the Nepalese that further resistance was hopeless, and peace was concluded on the terms insisted upon

Treaty of Segowlie. by the British Indian Government. The question about the Terai was, however, renewed

by the Gurkhas in other forms, and the British Indian Government at last abandoned their point rather than go to war again. But the provinces conquered from Nepal in the west have remained British possessions, and contain the well-known hill-stations of Simla, Mussouri, Landour and Naini Tal.

Having thus brought the Nepal War to a satisfactory conclusion, the Marquis of Hastings was engaged with a more troublesome, if not a more powerful enemy.

During the disorder which ensued on the downfall of the **Pindaris.** Mogul power, swarms of freebooters began to multiply in all parts of India, and specially in the Central Provinces. They offered their service to chiefs or leaders who could pay them, but their object was plunder, not was. They frequently transferred their services from one chief to another, or they marched across the country under their own leaders, desolating villages, and living by plunder. They belonged to no particular race or creed, but were composed of Afghans, Jats and Mahrattas, and were known by the comprehensive name of Pindaris. During Wellesley's wars with the Mahrattas, the Mahratta chiefs were glad to employ many of these fleet freebooters, but after the conclusion of that war, the Pindaris seem to have dispersed all over the country, and extended their depredations everywhere on their own account. Disbanded troops, hardy adventurers, robbers and criminals joined these predatory bands. The Marquis of Hastings reported to the Court of Directors, soon after his arrival in India, that the battalions of Amir Khan and the Pindari hordes numbered fifty thousand men, that they lived on plunder alone, and spread their ravages over an area as large as England.

The area increased year by year, and in 1815-16, one horde of eight thousand plundered the Nizam's dominions, another horde of twenty-five thousand plundered villages on the Coromandel Coast, and a third horde swept through the Peshwa's dominions and plundered villages on the Malabar Coast. Lord Hastings determined to put down these daring and organized freebooters.

About the middle of 1817, the Governor-General put into motion the largest army that the British had ever brought to the field, 57,000 troops with 13,000 irregular cavalry advanced from the Deccan and Gujerat, and 34,000 troops with 10,000 irregular cavalry came from Bengal, making a total of 114,000. The idea was to form a circle round the Pindari positions, and to close in upon them as on a common centre. It was the only plan which was likely to succeed against predatory freebooters whose object was not to fight the British, but to escape.

While these vast preparations were being made, the different Mahratta powers began to give trouble. The Peshwa's minister Trimbakji murdered the Gaekwar's minister Gangadhar Sastri, who had gone to Puna under British protection. Trimbakji was therefore imprisoned near Bombay, but escaped and fled among the Bhils. The Peshwa himself was collecting troops and placing his forts in a state of preparation. Mr. Elphinston, then resident at Puna, remonstrated with the Peshwa, and at last compelled him to deliver three important fortresses as pledges of his good behaviour.

The Peshwa then signed, in June 1817, the treaty of Puna, by which he gave up a considerable territory, and undertook not to hold communication with other powers.

Daulat Rao Sindia was a decided supporter of the Pindaris, many of whom were finding shelter in his dominions. About this time, Sindia's proposals to other powers to make a hostile combination against the British were detected; Sindia was astonished and alarmed; and he forthwith agreed to a new treaty pledging himself to co-operate against the Pindaris, and recognizing that the Rajput States were under British protection.

The notorious Amir Khan was now growing old, and was compelled to sign a treaty, promising to abstain from further depredations in future, to reduce his army, and to settle down as a

Treaty with  
Amir Khan.

peaceful ruler. The Nawabs of Tonk in Rajputana are descended from him,

**Peace at Holkar.** Jaswant Rao Holkar had become insane, and his wife Tulsi Bai and his son Malhar Rao Holker had sought refuge from their rebellious army in a remote fortress. They were anxious to come under British protection, and were not likely to help the Pindaris.

**Extinction of the Pindaris.** All these arrangements having been satisfactorily made, the fatal circle of the British army began to close in. Lord Hastings himself marched from Cawnpur in October, 1817, and crossed the Jumna. The Pindaris who had been dislodged from their homes by the Madras army fled northwards, but found themselves opposed by the Bengal army, and were cut off from Rajputana and Bandelkand. Thus encircled, the vast bodies of Pindaris made ineffectual attempts to escape in all directions, or perished in the wilds. Karim and Chetu were the most notorious among the Pindari chiefs; the former threw himself on the mercy of the British, and was permitted to live in peace; the latter fled into the jungles and was killed by a tiger. Many died in the conflict or in the jungles in the utmost distress; many mixed with the population and settled down as cultivators; and the vast Pindari organization was crushed for ever, and was heard of no more.

**Third Mahratta War.** In the meantime the Peshwa, Baji Rao, was chafing under the yoke imposed upon him by the treaty of Puna, and was secretly collecting troops.

Mr. Elphinstone suspected what was going on, but was induced to restore to the Peshwa the three forts he had pledged for his good behaviour. Baji Rao continued to collect troops, and to put his forts in state of defence, and Mr. Elphinstone considered it necessary to take precautions.

**Battle of Khirki.** The British force at Puna was removed to Khirki, and in November, 1817, Mr. Elphinstone himself left the Puna Residency and joined the force at Khirki. On the same afternoon, Baji Rao at last threw off all

disguise and attacked the British force of less than 3,000 men, European and Sepoy, with his army of 26,000 troops. The attack was gallantly repulsed, and the Residency was plundered.

The Raja of Nagpur had made common cause with the Peshwa and had risen in arms. Raghaji Bhonsla died in 1816, his son was an idiot, and his nephew Appa Saheb murdered the boy and became Raja. When the Peshwa was at war with the British, Appa Saheb was appointed commander-in-chief by the Peshwa, and in November 1817, his troops numbering nearly 20,000 men attacked the small British army, consisting only of 1,400 sepoys. The battle

was fought at Sitabaldi. The result was the

**Battle of Sitabaldi.** same as at Khirki; the immense Mahratta army was repulsed. Appa Saheb now denied having authorized the attack, but it being discovered that he had killed the late Raja, he was imprisoned. He managed to

escape, and found shelter in Jodhpur where he

**Peace of Nagpur.** ended his days. Baji Rao a grandson of Raghaji Bhonsla, was made Raja, and the administration placed under British control.

The authorities at Indore had also taken up the cause of

**Battle of Mehidpur and peace with Holkar.** the Peshwa, and Tulsi Bai and her general had led an army in support of the Peshwa. Sir John Malcolm opened negotiations. Tulsi

Bai was willing to come to terms, but the rebellious army cruelly beheaded her on the banks of the Sipra river, and attacked the British army. The battle of Mehidpur was fought in December, 1817, and the Indore army was completely routed by Sir John Malcolm. The infant Malhar Rao, was afterwards raised to the throne, and the State became a subsidiary State.

Hastings erased the name of Baji Rao [from the list of

**Extinction of the Peshwa.** Indian Princes, and elevated the Raja of Satara, a descendant of Sivaji, to some share of the former dignity of the house. All the

dominions of the Peshwa were taken over by the British. They now form the Bombay Presidency. In <sup>Bombay Presidency.</sup> June, 1818, Baji Rao was at last surrounded by the British troops under the command of Sir John Malcolm, and surrendered himself to the mercy of the foe. A pension of eight lakhs of rupees a year was granted to him, and he was permitted to live in Bithur, near Cawnpur.

Thus ended the last Mahratta war, and thus Hastings completed the work, which Wellesly had begun, of making the British power supreme in India, and of making all States subsidiary or tributary to the British Empire. One power only remained independent, *viz.*, the Sikhs beyond the Sutlej.

Hastings was an enlightened administrator and a friend to education. Some progress and advancement among the people were observable during his administration. David Hare founded a school for imparting English education to Indian children; the missionaries Carey, Ward, and Marshman started a Press and established a College at Serampur; and the Hindu College was founded in Calcutta in 1817.

#### AMHERST.

Lord Amherst arrived in India in 1823, and the first <sup>Burma.</sup> Burmese War is the principal event during the period of his administration. About 1750, *i.e.*, some years before the battle of Plassy, Alompra founded a dynasty at Ava, and extended his conquests southwards as far as the sea, and founded Rangoon. One of his sons conquered Arracan, Martaban and Tenasserim. Under his successor the Burmese general Bundula conquered Assam and Manipur, and threatened Cachar, and subsequently invaded British territory. Lord Amherst was thus forced to war.

In May, 1824, the British Army under Sir Archibald Campbell reached Rangoon, which was deserted by its inhabitants. In December following, Bundula attacked it with 60,000 men, but was repulsed and defeated. He tried to make a

<sup>First Burmese war.</sup>

stand higher up the Irawadi at Donabew, but the British took the place, and Bundula was killed.

The British Army proceeded up to Prome, and then towards Ava. The king was now thoroughly frightened, and concluded peace by paying a kror of Rupees, and ceding Assam, Arracan, and Tenasserim to the British in 1826. Prome and Pegu, and the maritime city of Rangoon still remained with the Burmese.

The little State of Bharatpur was now in disorder. The Raja died in 1825, and the British Government recognised the succession of his boy, Balwant Sinha. But Durjan Sal, cousin of the little Raja, imprisoned him, murdered his guardian, and usurped the supreme power. Sir David Ochterlony, the hero of the Nepal War, ordered a force to advance on his own authority, but was checked by the Governor-General. He was grieved at this affront, resigned his appointment and died two months after. But Lord Amherst was forced to interfere, and an army was at length sent against Bharatpur.

**Capture of Bharatpur.** The chiefs of India remembered the unsuccessful siege of Bharatpur by the British in 1805, and watched the present proceedings with the utmost anxiety. Even now the mud walls of the fort were proof against artillery, but they were mined with ten thousand pounds of gun powder. A terrific explosion caused a breach, and the British army rushed into it and captured the fort. The usurper was imprisoned, and the infant Raja was restored to his throne.

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### BENTINCK.

Lord Amherst left India in February in 1828, and Mr. Butterword Bayley, as Senior Member of the Council, was provisional Governor-General until the arrival of Lord William Bentinck in July. As we have seen before he was Governor of Madras 22 years before. Lord William Bentinck's administration was not distinguished by wars or important annexation; but the reforms he introduced and the blessings

he bestowed on the people have endeared his name to the nations of India.

The inhuman custom of permitting widows to burn themselves on the pyres of their husbands was unknown to the ancient Hindus generally, and finds no sanction in ancient Hindus works, or even in Manu's Institutes. The custom was generally adopted in the last days of Hindu independence and seemed to fine greater favour after India was conquered by the Moslems, and the Hindus had ceased to be a living nation.

In 1829 Lord Bentinck passed an Act abolishing this inhuman rite, and declaring all who abetted the act to be guilty of culpable homicid.

**Abolition of Sati.**

The people of India now appreciate Bentinck's act of mercy, and are greatful for the abolition of the rite.

Another act which distinguished Bentinck's administration was the suppression of Thugs. These hereditary assassins travelled in all parts of India in various disguises, and strangled and robbed travellers. Colonel Sleeman's name stands foremost among the officials who have helped to stamp out this crime. Over 1,500 Thugs were apprehended between 1826 and 1835, and the offence gradually died out.

**Suppression of Thugs.**

But it is for administrative reforms that the government of Bentinck is best known. The appointment of Munsiffs and Ameens was an element in Lord Cornwallis's scheme of 1793, but men with no character for respectability had been appointed on miserable commissions, and they could not give satisfaction. Under the administration of Lord Hastings the pay of Munsiffs and Sudder Ameens in Bengal had been somewhat improved; in Madras the jurisdiction of District Munsiffs and Sudder Ameens were extended; and these measures were extended to Bombay when the Mahratta country was annexed.

**Administrative reforms.**

During the administration of Lord Amherst, Madras and Bombay were ruled by able and enlightened Governors. Sir

Thomas Munro, a true friend of the people, was the Governor of Madras. He showed that the greatest benefit had resulted from entrusting District Munsiffs with extended jurisdictions, and he established auxiliary courts under Indian Judges with civil and criminal jurisdiction. The Hon'ble Mountstuart Elphinstone who was Resident at Puna at the time of the last Mahratta War became the Governor of Bombay under Lord Amherst. He promulgated regulations constituting a complete Code of Civil and Criminal Law and Police and Revenue rules. They were based on Indian institutions and bestowed large powers on Indian functionaries.

What Munro did for Madras and Elphinstone did for Bombay, Bentinck did, on a still wider scale, for Bengal. The principle on which they acted was the same ; they had faith in the people, they took the people into their confidence, and evoked loyal and faithful service from the people.

The powers and emoluments of the Indian Judges in Bengal were fixed upon a comprehensive and liberal scale by Bentinck, and they were invested with the almost entire charge of the administration of civil justice. Shortly after, Indian Deputy Collectors were appointed on adequate pay to assist European Collectors in the revenue administration of the country. The result has amply justified Lord William Bentinck's enlightened policy, and the administration of the country has been placed on a satisfactory basis by the loyal help and co-operation of its people.

The period of the previous Charter of the East India Company expired in 1833. It was now renewed on condition that the Company should give up its trade, and permit Europeans to freely settle in the country. A new era thus commenced for India,—an era in which her rulers were no longer traders, but only administrators. The North-Western Provinces were formed into a separate Government in addition to those of Bengal, Madras and Bombay. A new Legal Member was added to the Governor-General's Council, and the Council was empowered to pass *Acts* applicable to the whole of India. And

*Renewal of Charter.*

lastly, it was enacted that no native of India "shall, by reason only of his religion, place of birth, descent, colour, or any of them, be disabled from holding any place, office or employment."

The misconduct of the Raja of Mysore led to a rebellion among the people, and the British were compelled to take the administration into their own hands in 1830. This arrangement continued for over fifty years, and Mysore was restored to native Indian rule in 1881. The atrocities of the Raja of Coorg also required British interference, and after a short war the Raja surrendered himself. Lord Bentinck wished the people to choose a Raja for themselves, but they expressed their preference for the rule of the East India Company, and Coorg was accordingly annexed. This was the only annexation made during Bentinck's administration, and it was made "in consideration of the unanimous wish of the people."

The names of eminent administrators and literary men have shed a lustre on this period of British rule in India. Elphinstone retired from Bombay in 1828, and ten years after, published his History of India, which continues to be the best account of the Musalman Rule in India. Elphinstone was succeeded in Bombay by Sir John Malcolm, whose histories are still regarded as standard works on the subjects they treat of. But still more distinguished writers than these graced the period of Lord William's administration. Macaulay was the new Legal Member of the Governor-General's Council. Horace Hayman Wilson and James Prinsep followed up those researches into Indian Antiquities which Sir William Jones and Colebrooke had started. Grant Duff compiled his masterly History of the Mahrattas, and Tod was employed in Rajasthan, of which he compiled a stirring and sympathetic history. But the culture which has shed a lustre on Bentinck's administration was not confined to Englishmen in India. Natives of India imbibed liberal ideas, and co-operated with Englishmen in the cause of

education and progress ; and Raja Ram Mohan Rai, the greatest Hindu reformer of the century, founded the theistic Brahmo Samaj of India in 1829. The movement showed the degree of progress which the people of Bengal had made within two generations from the assumption of the Government of the country, by the English. The first Bengali poet of the century, Isvar Chandra Gupta, started the *Prabhakar* newspaper in 1830 ; and Bengalee literature has expanded and improved since that date with the progress of English education. Bentinck helped the cause of progress ; and one of the last acts of his administration was to rule, on the recommendation of Macaulay and other sound advisers, that education should be imparted to the people of the country in English. A long controversy between those who advocated education in Oriental classics, and those who advocated English education, was thus closed on utilitarian principles.

## CHAPTER XIV.

### INDIA UNDER ONE POWER.

A. D. 1835 to 1858.

#### AUCKLAND.

UNTIL the arrival of Lord Auckland, Sir Charles Metcalfe, as Metcalfe. Senior Member of Council, acted as Governor-General. His administration is memorable Liberty of the Press. for the liberty which he conferred on the Press.

Lord Auckland arrived in 1836. The extension of Russian power in Central Asia now caused some alarm to Indian administrators as the victories of Napoleon Bonaparte had caused uneasiness at the beginning of the century. Lord Auckland, accordingly, desired to have a firm hold on the frontier kingdom of Afghanistan.

We have spoken before of Ahmad Shah Durani who defeated the Mahrattas at Paniput in 1761. His descendants continued to rule in Afghanistan and in the Punjab until the time of Ranjit Sinha, who recovered the independence of the Punjab soon after 1800. The Duranis continued to rule in Kabul, until Dost Muhammad of the Barukzai tribe became master of Kabul, and Shah Shuja of the Durani house was an exile in India.

**The First Afghan War.**—Auckland formed the idea of restoring Shah Shuja to the throne of Kabul, and thus keeping a hold over that kingdom. In 1838, he declared war against Dost Muhammad; and as Ranjit Sinha, then ruler of the Punjab refused to allow a British army to march through his kingdom, the army went by Sindh and Beluchistan. Kandahar and Ghazni were taken in 1839, Shah Shuja was placed on the throne of Kabul, and the English minister and envoy, Sir William Macnaghten, was stationed there to preserve British influence. The next year

Shah Shuja in Kabul.

Dost Muhammad surrendered himself to the English and was sent to Calcutta.

The presence of the British in Kabul was distasteful to the Afghans and disasters began in 1841. Sir Alexander Burnes, the Political Agent, and Sir William Macnaghten, the English envoy, were killed. In January, 1842, the British force, 4000 strong with 12,000 followers, began the fatal retreat from Kabul. The Afghans attacked the retreating force from their heights, thousands were killed, thousands died of cold and wounds and hunger, and of the whole body only one English Surgeon, Dr. Brydon, succeeded in reaching Jelalabad to tell the tale of this terrible disaster.

### ELLENBOROUGH.

Lord Ellenborough was sent to supersede Lord Auckland, and arrived in India in February, 1842. A British army under General Pollock proceeded through the Khyber Pass to Jelalabad. The Afghans had besieged the place. Pollock compelled them to raise the siege, and then defeated them in battle, and reached Kabul.

The great Bazar of Kabul was blown up with gunpowder, and acts of retaliation were perpetrated by the conquering army in the city. The British army then returned to India, leaving Dost Muhammad master of the kingdom.

The conquest of Sindh was the next great event of Ellenborough's administration. The Amirs of Sindh had rendered good service to the British when their army marched into Afghanistan in 1839, but they were supposed afterwards to have given cause for offence. Sir Charles Napier defeated the Amirs in the battle of Miani in 1843, and Sindh was annexed.

Affairs in Gwalior now engaged the attention of the Governor-General. Daulat Rao Sindia had died in 1827, and his widow, Baiza Bai, had adopted a boy and ruled

Retreat and  
destruction  
of the British  
force.

Alexander Burnes, the Political Agent, and Sir William Macnaghten, the English envoy,

were killed. In January, 1842, the British

Army of  
Retribution.

General Pollock proceeded through the Khyber

Pass to Jelalabad. The Afghans had besieged

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Kabul.

Conquest of  
Sindh.

Ellenborough's administration. The Amirs

of Sindh had rendered good service to the

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stan in 1839, but they were supposed afterwards to have given  
cause for offence. Sir Charles Napier defeated the Amirs in  
the battle of Miani in 1843, and Sindh was annexed.

ably as regent. When the boy, Janakji Rao, arrived at years of discretion, Baiza Bai was compelled by Lord William Bentinck to leave the administration to Janakji.

On Janakji's death in 1843, his widow, Tara Bai, a girl of twelve years, adopted a boy Jayaji Rao and wished to rule. She dismissed a regent who had been appointed by Lord Ellenborough, and there was some disorder in Gwalior, on which Lord Ellenborough declared war. The formidable army of Gwalior was beaten in the battles of Maharajpur and Punnair, and a new treaty was concluded by which the army of Gwalior was greatly reduced.

At Indore, Malhar Rao Holkar, died in 1833. His widow adopted a boy and wished to rule as regent, but a kinsman of mature years, Hari Rao, set up a claim to the throne. Lord William Bentinck persuaded the widow to retire with her adopted child, and Hari Rao became the ruling chief. Hari Rao died in 1843, and Tukaji Rao, a nominee of the queen-mother, was placed on the throne.

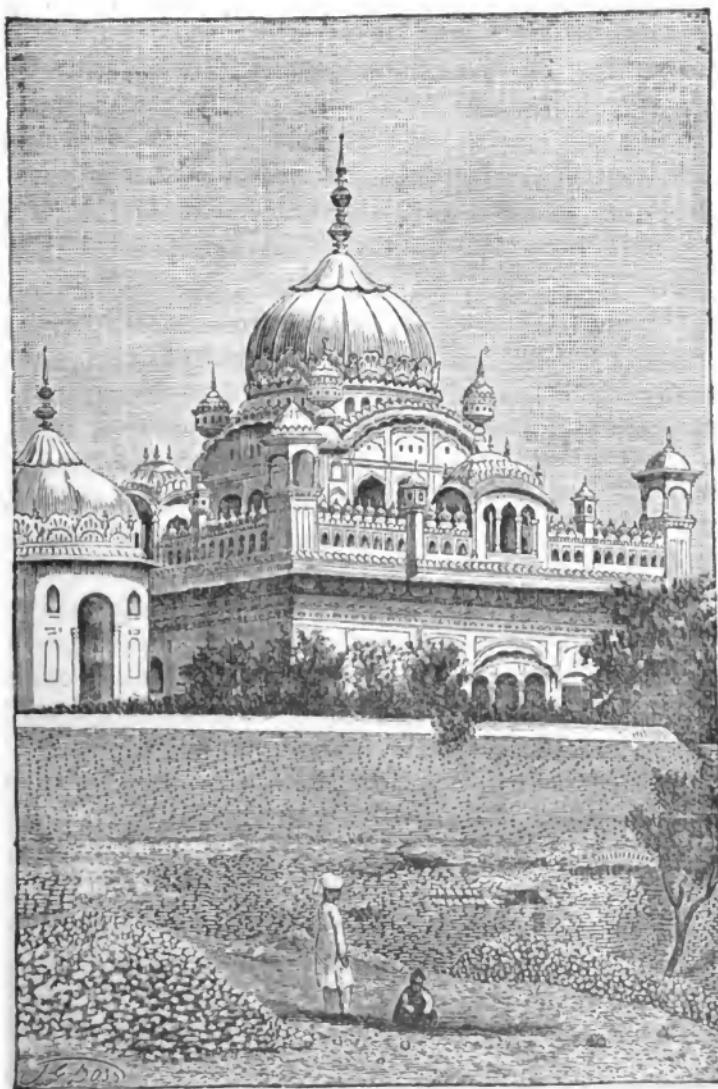
In June, 1844, Lord Ellenborough was recalled by the Court of Directors.

### HARDINGE.

India had enjoyed peace for over a quarter of a century since the conclusion of the last Mahratta war. There had been war in Burma and war in Afghanistan, and there had been short campaigns in Bharatpur and Coorg, Sindh and Malwa, but these scarcely interrupted the general peace of the country. A great and dubious war was however at hand.

Ranjit Sinha, who shook off the Afghan yoke and made the Punjab independent, died in 1839. He had organized a formidable Sikh army disciplined by successive French officers—Allard, Ventura, Avitable and Court,—and after the death of Ranjit Sinha no one could control this army which became turbulent and unruly.

War with Sindia.



RANJIT SINGHA'S TOMB.

**The First Sikh War.**—After a number of revolution, Dhalip Sinha, an infant son of Ranjit, was placed on the throne with his mother as regent. Lal Sinha, became minister, and Tej Sinha was appointed to the command of the army. But all were equally afraid of the formidable army, and in order to save Lahore and the Punjab, the army was launched on British territories, to conquer British possessions or be crushed by British arms. In 1845, the Sikh army consisting of 60,000 disciplined troops, crossed the Sutlej and invaded British territory.

Sir Henry Hardinge, who had come out as Governor-General in the previous year, himself took the field, and Sir Hugh Gough, the commander-in-chief, accompanied him.

They met and defeated the Sikh army under Lal Sinha at **Battles of Mudki and Ferozshahar.** Mudki in December 1845. Then followed the battle of Ferozshahar, in which the Sikhs offered an obstinate resistance, but were defeated.

In January, 1846, the Sikhs were again defeated at Aliwal. **Battles of Aliwal and Sobraon.** The final contest took place the next month at Sobraon. The Sikhs fought with a courage which astonished the English; but in the end they gave way, and were driven to the Sutlej. The British gained the victory dearly with a loss of over two thousand in killed and wounded.

The British army now crossed the Sutlej and pushed on to Lahore, and peace was concluded. **Peace with the Sikhs.** Dhalip Sinha was recognized as Raja, and the Sikh army was reduced to 20,000 infantry and 12,000 cavalry. The Jalandar Doab, or the tract between the Sutlej and the Ravi, was annexed by the British.

Hardinge demanded a million and a half towards the expenses of the war. But there was no money in **Kashmir.** the treasury. Gulab Sinha, viceroy of Kashmir and Jummu, offered to pay the money if he was recognized as the independent Maharaja of Kashmir. The offer was accepted, and Kashmir has since been a separate kingdom.

Sir Henry Hardinge received a peerage and returned to England in 1848, and was succeeded by Lord Dalhousie.

### DALHOUSIE.

The relations between the Sikhs and the British were strained, and slight causes sufficed to lead to a fresh war. Mulraj, the viceroy of Multan, revolted. Sher Sinha was sent with a Sikh force against Mulraj, but he joined the enemy, and the veteran Sikh soldiers began to assemble on all sides.

**The Second Sikh War.**—War was again declared against the Sikhs in 1848, and Lord Gough advanced on Sher Sinha's intrenchments at Chillianwalla in January, 1849. The battle of Chillianwalla is memorable in the history of India for the obstinacy and determination with which it was fought. Lord Gough was unsuccessful in his attempt, and lost more than 2,400 officers and men, and the colours of three regiments.

The tidings of this disaster were received in England with alarm, and Sir Charles Napier was sent out to supersede Lord Gough. Before his arrival, however, Gough had crushed the Sikhs in the Battle of Gujrat in February. Their army was a complete wreck, and Sikh power destroyed for ever, the Province of Punjab was then annexed by Lord Dalhousie.

Three years after the annexation of the Punjab, the second **Second Burmese War.** Burmese War broke out. British merchants complained that they had received ill-treatment at the hands of Rangoon officials, and a captain, who conveyed a remonstrance from Dalhousie, was treated with scant courtesy at Rangoon. War was therefore declared against Burma; and a British army was sent to Burma in 1852. Rangoon and **Annexation of Pegu.** Bassein and Prome were captured, and the province of Pegu was annexed by Dalhousie to the British Empire.

Minor States in India were annexed one after another. The custom of adoption on the failure of a natural heir had been

recognized in India from ancient times, and the adopted son inherited the estate or the throne of his father. Lord Dalhousie however, would not recognize this custom in the case of Indian States. Raja of Satara, the last representative of the house of Satara. Sivaji, died without a male heir in 1848, his death-bed adoption was set aside, and Satara was annexed to the Bombay Presidency.

Jhansi. Five years after this Jhansi was annexed on failure of a natural heir to the last chief.

But the most conspicuous instance of annexation on these grounds was Nagpur. The last Bhonsla Raja of Nagpur died in 1853, the adoption of a son by his widow was not recognised, and the extensive Mahratta kingdom was annexed, and now forms a part of the Central Provinces.

In the same eventful year, 1853, Baji Rao, the ex-Peshwa, Nana Saheb. who was now a pensioner, died. He had no natural heir, and had adopted a son known as Nana Saheb. Nana asked for a continuation of the pension which had been granted to his father, but the prayer was rejected. Nana brooded over his disappointment.

The Nizam of Haidarabad had agreed to pay for the maintenance of a British Contingent Force. The Berar. Berar. The arrears had accumulated to a large sum, and Lord Dalhousie demanded the cession of sufficient territory for the maintenance of this force in future. Berar which had been taken from the Raja of Nagpur and given to the Nizam by Wellesley in 1803, was taken over by Dalhousie in 1853 for the maintenance of the Contingent Force.

The last annexation of Lord Dalhousie was Oudh. The Oudh. people of that province had been oppressed by the Nawab, the soldiers, and the land-holders of Oudh, and successive Governors-General had remonstrated in vain. Lord Dalhousie annexed the province in 1856. In the same year he resigned office, and returned to England.

**Progress.**—Railways and Telegraphs were introduced in India during Dalhousie's administration, and the universal use of the half-anna postage throughout India marked the commencement of a new era of progress. The famous Education Despatch of 1853, was also promulgated during this administration. The old controversy between classical education and English education had been decided in favour of the latter during the rule of Bentinck; the new despatch continued the same policy, but based English education on the vernaculars of India.

The acquisition of the Punjab, Oudh and Pegu extended the Indian empire from the Indus to the Irawadi; while the acquisition of Nagpur and Berar joined Bengal with Bombay. But these rapid acquisitions roused the alarm of various Indian chiefs and peoples; the belief spread that the East India Company aimed at the annexation of all states; and a catastrophe the like of which had not been witnessed in India for a hundred years, burst on the realm soon after the departure of Lord Dalhousie. The Mutiny of 1857 has cast a shade on Dalhousie's policy of annexation, and resulted in the transfer of the Indian Empire from the East India Company to the Crown.

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### CANNING.

Before leaving for India, Lord Canning uttered these prophetic words:—"I wish for a peaceful term of office, but I cannot forget that in the sky of India, serene as it is, a small cloud may arise no longer than a man's hand, but which growing larger and larger may at last threaten to burst and overwhelm us with ruin." These words have become historic after the breaking out of the Indian Mutiny.

The policy of Dalhousie had unsettled the minds of the people; and intriguing men, hostile to the British rule, found it easy to spread rumours to rouse the alarm of the sepoys. A rumour was spread that the cartridges served out to the sepoys were greased with the fat of cows and of pigs. The rumour

ran like wild fire, and the religious susceptibilities of sepoys, Hindu and Mahomedan, were aroused. Indications of disaffection and instances of insubordination were manifest in many places.

*1857*

In May, ~~1857~~ the sepoys at Meerut broke out into open **Mutiny at Meerut.** mutiny, cut down the Europeans whom they met, and then went off to Delhi to proclaim the old Mogul as Emperor.

The Delhi sepoys joined the mutineers who had come from **Delhi.** Meerut, and shot down their European officers.

The royal family sided with them, and the European and Christian officials and residents at Delhi, fifty in number, were massacred. Similar incidents began to take place in many stations in India. The sepoys rose, killed their officers, massacred the European and Christian residents, broke open the jail, plundered the treasury, and marched off to other centres of revolt. The events which transpired at Jhansi and Cawnpur and Lucknow deserve special mention.

Jhansi, a small state in Bandelkand, had been annexed in **Jhansi.** 1853, and the Rani, who had not been permitted to adopt an heir, was inflamed with a desire to be revenged. A mutiny broke out among the sepoys in June, and the Europeans, over fifty in number, took refuge in the fort. But being short of provisions, they relied on the assurances of safety which were given ; but when they came out, they were massacred.

Nana Saheb, the adopted son of the ex-Peshwa Baji Rao, was living in half royal style in Bithur, and, while profuse in his hospitality towards English officers, was secretly nursing his wrath at the refusal of the British Indian Government to grant him a pension.

In June there was a mutiny among the sepoys of Cawnpur. and they commenced their attack on the intrenchment, in which the English had shut themselves up. For twenty days, the garrison held out amidst scenes of suffering and bloodshed. Want of provisions,

however, compelled them to trust to the promise of safe conduct given by Nana Saheb, and they surrendered. They left the intrenchment, and went to the boats, by which they were to leave the place. Suddenly, a murderous fire was opened on the boats from both sides of the river. Only four men escaped the rest were massacred on the spot. The women and children were reserved for a similar fate.

On the 1st July Nana Saheb went back to Bithur, and was formally crowned as Peshwa. There was mutiny at Fatehgarh, and the Europeans escaped in boats to Cawnpur, unaware of what had taken place in that town. They shared the same fate with the Cawnpur prisoners; the men were slaughtered in the presence of Nana Saheb, and the women and children were kept with those of Cawnpur.

General Havelock left Allahabad for Cawnpur with 2,000 men, Europeans and Sikhs. The British army, too, committed acts of retaliation, and burnt down villages along their route on both sides. Havelock defeated Nana Saheb's army in the way, and by the night of the 15th July came to within eight miles of Cawnpur.

On that same night Nana committed his crowning act of atrocity in Cawnpur. He had heard that Havelock had beaten his troops and was advancing on Cawnpur; and, in revenge he ordered the European women and children about two hundred in number, to be slaughtered. The poor victims were hacked to death, or almost to death, and the dead and the dying were thrown into a well the next morning.

On the next day, Havelock defeated Nana Saheb and his troops after a stubborn resistance and entered Cawnpur. There he beheld the scene of the massacre, and the bleeding remains in the well, but the perpetrators of the massacre had fled.

The outbreak had begun at Lucknow in May, but Sir Lucknow. Henry Lawrence, the Chief Commissioner of Oudh, was prepared for it. The mutineers

were repulsed and pursued, and at last marched off to Delhi. But the whole province was in insurrection, disbanded sepoys arrived from every direction, and the rebels continued to surround the English garrison. Lawrence repaired to the Residency with all the European inhabitants and a weak regiment.

Lawrence was wounded by a shell shortly after, and died of the wound, but the little garrison held out bravely. Havelock attempted to come to the relief of Lucknow, but his small force was reduced by cholera and dysentery, and he fell back on Cawnpur.

Important events had, in the meantime, taken place at Delhi. In June, *i.e.*, about a month after the breaking out of the mutiny, Sir Henry Barnard defeated a portion of the ~~Delhi recovered.~~ rebel army, re-occupied the old cantonment on the ridge outside the walls of Delhi. But the British troops did not exceed 8,000 men, the mutineers within the walls were 30,000 strong ; and the former, far from being able to commence regular siege operations, were on the contrary constantly attacked by the enemy. An obstinate attack made on the 23rd June, the hundredth anniversary of the battle of Plassy, was repulsed.

In August, Brigadier Nicholson came up from the Punjab with a reinforcement, and the siege of Delhi began in earnest. In September, the breaches were considered practicable, and the assaulting columns rushed into the city. The mutineers escaped ; but the city was the scene of plunder and bloodshed for six days, and remained deserted for a time.

The old emperor was arrested. Two sons of the emperor were arrested on the following day ; and as there was an attempt at rescue, an English officer shot them both with his pistol. The old Emperor was afterwards tried for waging war against the British Government, and a sentence of death was recorded. But the sentence was not carried out, and he was sent as a State prisoner to pass his days at Rangoon.

**Relief of Lucknow.** The recovery of Delhi was the turning point in the history of the mutiny. Only two days after the British troops had entered Delhi, General Havelock who was at Cawnpur was joined by

Sir James Outram, with 1,400 men. In September, Havelock and Outram crossed the Ganges ; they routed the rebel armies which had come to oppose their march ; and they cut their way through the streets of Lucknow, and relieved the garrison in the Residency. But the mutineers were still strong in number and held the town, and the English were compelled to remain on the defensive inside the Residency.

It was not till November that Sir Colin Campbell (afterwards Lord Clyde) finally relieved Lucknow

**Second Relief of Lucknow.** with 5,000 men. He cut his way to the Residency and brought away the garrison with the women and children. He came to Cawnpur and there defeated the Gwalior troops which had taken that town. Havelock died of dysentery the day after leaving Lucknow.

Sir James Outram was left at Lucknow, and soon drove the mutineers from that town. But throughout Oudh and Rohilkand there was a national rising, and the people had joined the mutinous troops ; and it took Sir Colin Campbell, now Lord Clyde, two cold seasons, to quell the rebellion and to restore order.

**Central India.** Sir Hugh Rose quelled the mutiny in Central India. He besieged and took the fortress of Jhansi—where Tantia Topi, the general of Nana Saheb, had come to the help of the Rani—defeated Tantia Topi and his army of 20,000 men after desperate actions near Kalpi. After these operations he considered he had brought the war to a close, but the Rani of Jhansi and Tantia Topi still persevered in their efforts.

**Tantia Topi and the Rani of Jhansi.** Tantia Topi had gone to Gwalior and had collected troops. Sindia had no sympathy with the mutiny, and he marched with his troops, against the rebels. His troops, however, deserted to the

enemy, and Sindia fled. Tantia Topi thus got possession of the city of Gwalior with all Sindia's artillery.

Sir Hugh Rose immediately marched against the enemy, and stormed and took all the enemy's intrenchments in June, 1858. The Rani of Jhansi, a brave and heroic woman, fought in male attire during these operations, and fell fighting at the head of her troops.

Tantia Topi retreated from Gwalior with 6,000 men, but Brigadier Napier, afterwards Lord Napier of Magdala, boldly attacked him with only 600 horse, and routed the army. Tantia Topi retreated to the Nurbudda, and evaded British troops with remarkable celerity.

The chase continued for months. Tantia fled into the desert of Rajputana, and thence turned back into the jungles of Bandelkand. He was at last betrayed by one of his own followers in April 1859, and was tried and hanged. He was the originator of Nana Saheb's rebellion and was Nana's chief support and stay, and he continued the struggle long after it had subsided in other parts of India.

On the 1st November, 1858, the Proclamation of Her Majesty Queen Victoria brought the mutiny to a close, and also announced the transfer of the British Empire in India from the East India Company to the Crown. It proclaimed the principle of justice and religious toleration, and granted a general amnesty to all mutineers, except those who had directly taken part in murders. And Her Majesty the Queen declared in the Proclamation her will that "Our subjects, of whatever race or creed be freely and impartially admitted to offices in our service, the duties of which they may be qualified by their education, ability, and integrity, duly to discharge." Elderly men still remember the day when this Proclamation was read in every district of India, in English and in the Vernaculars, amidst large gatherings of a loyal and rejoicing

nation.\* And the Indian nation has ever since held the document to be best security of their rights and liberties under the British rule.

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\*The present writer recollects the imposing ceremony with which the Proclamation was read in Purnia District in Bengal, amidst peals of cannon, and the shouts of the assembled multitude. Cries of "Long live the Queen" in English and in Bengali rent the air; Hindus and Musalmans joined in the wish; and Brahmins held up their sacred thread and blessed the name of their gracious sovereign.

CHAPTER XV.  
INDIA UNDER THE CROWN.  
From 1858.

CANNING

THE Act for the Better Government of India, which transferred the Empire from the Company to the Crown, enacted that India should be governed by the Queen of England through a Secretary of State assisted by a Council of Members, and bestowed on the Governor-General of India the new title of Viceroy. Lord Canning was, therefore the first Viceroy of India. He had preserved his equanimity unruffled during the course of the terrible occurrences which marked the mutiny and when that mutiny was quelled, he checked the spirit of retaliation which prompted retributive measures. The epithet of "Clemency" Canning which was scornfully applied to him for his just moderation, is considered by posterity as his highest praise, and the people of India still cherish his name with the affection due to a benevolent and just ruler.

The policy of Lord Dalhousie of annexing Indian States when Chiefs died without leaving natural heirs, had caused alarm and disaffection. Lord Canning now publicly announced the right of Indian Chiefs to adopt heirs on the failure of natural issue. Canning also took the first step to ensure to the cultivators of Bengal those just rights which the Permanent Settlement had contemplated, but which had not yet been secured to them by law. The great Rent Act of 1859 was the first great Legislative Act to protect the tillers of the soil from the excessive demands of their landlords, and is the basis of the improvement in the condition of the Bengal ryot which is now apparent everywhere. The Indian Penal Code which had been drafted by Macaulay, was passed into law in 1860 and the Codes of Civil and Criminal Procedure were passed in the following year.

Lord Canning left India in March 1861, but died in England within a month after his arrival, and was buried in Westminster Abbey, where many of the greatest men of England lie buried.

### ELGIN

Lord Elgin came out in 1862, but died at a Himalayan station in 1863, and was there buried.

### LAWRENCE

The administration of Sir John Lawrence in the Punjab had commanded general admiration, and the Sikhs of the Punjab had refrained from joining the sepoys in the mutiny of 1857. He was now appointed Viceroy and Governor-General of India, and took charge of the Government in 1864 from Sir William Denison who was acting.

The people of Bhutan used to make raids into British possession, and sometimes annexed British territory. **Bhutan War.** An English mission, which had been sent to Bhutan, had failed in obtaining redress; and the envoy had been insulted and forced to sign a treaty "under compulsion," restoring the disputed territory to Bhutan. The treaty was nullified, and an expedition was sent to Bhutan. In the end, the Bhutanese were compelled to restore the British subjects whom they had carried away; arrangements were made about the disputed territory; and the Duars were annexed.

The great famine of Orissa followed in 1866, and in the **Famine in Orissa.** absence of effective measures for relief, there was a terrible loss of life. Calcutta and many Bengal districts were filled with starving Uriyas,—men, women and children in the last stages of privation and distress,—and the active benevolence with which the people of Bengal relieved the sufferers, received warm recognition.

In Oudh an inquiry was made into the condition of the **Oudh.** peasantry and an Act was passed to secure them in their customary rights. In Afghanis-

tan there was continuous fighting among the claimants to the throne after the death of Dost Muhammad, **Afghanistan.**

and at last his youngest son, Sher Ali Khan, recovered the throne in 1868. Lawrence pursued the policy of "masterly inactivity," as it was called, and wisely refrained from actively helping any of the different parties to the war. Sir John Lawrence left India in 1869 and was then raised to the peerage.

### MAYO

Lord Mayo arrived in India in 1869, and in the same year **Umbala Durbar.** he held a Durbar at Umbala, in which Sher Ali was formally recognized as the ruler of Afghanistan. In the same year the Duke of Edinburgh, a son **Duke of Edinburgh in India.** of her late Majesty the Queen, visited India, and the visit evoked the deepest loyalty from all classes of the people of India.

Lord Mayo introduced many internal reforms. He inaugurated the system of Provincial Contracts—the system of allotting to the different provincial governments certain shares in the land revenue and other sources of income, with the responsibility of meeting therefrom certain charges. The local **Internal Reforms.** governments thus became more careful in the collection and expenditure of revenue, as they were henceforth given the power of spending, on works calculated to prove beneficial to their respective provinces, any surplus sums that remained after defraying their expenses. He divided the affairs of the Government into seven departments, *viz.*, Foreign; Home; Public works; Revenue; Agriculture, and Commerce; Financial; Military and Legislative; and the head of each department was given a seat on the Viceregal Council. He gave a great impetus to the development of the material resources of the country by the extension of roads, railways, and canals. But his valuable career was cut short by a Musalman convict, in 1872, who stabbed him while he

was on a visit to the Penal Settlement at Port Blair in the Andamans.

### NORTHBROOK

Lord Northbrook came to India in 1872. In 1874 a severe famine visited Behar, but measures were ably organized in time, and deaths from famine were successfully averted. In the following year the Gaekwar of Baroda was charged with an attempt to poison the British Resident, and Lord Northbrook ordered an inquiry to be made by three Indian chiefs and three English officers. The verdict was not unanimous, but the Government was satisfied of the misgovernment of the Gaekwar. He was deposed, and a child, belonging to the family, was installed in his place.

The last notable event of Lord Northbrook's administration was the visit of our present Emperor, Edward VII., then Prince of Wales to India which evoked a passionate outburst of loyalty from all classes of people in the country.

### LYTTON

Lord Northbrook was succeeded by Lord Lytton who came to India in 1876. On the 1st January, 1877, the Queen of England was proclaimed Empress of India at a great Durbar in Delhi, and in every District in India.\*

But the same year a severe famine visited the Madras Presidency. The measures taken to avert the calamity were not adequate, and the loss of life was terrible. The deaths from starvation and from at-

\* The present writer, then an official in Backergunj district in the Province of Bengal, took his share of work in the issue of the Proclamation in that district. It was received with enthusiastic loyalty, and loyal addresses on the part of the people were read in response.

tendant diseases were computed at over five millions. No calamity so fatal and terrible had visited India since the Bengal Famine of 1770.

Affairs in Afghanistan now engaged the attention of the Victory. Sher Ali refused admittance to a *Afghan War,* British envoy and received a Russian mission. Lord Lytton declared war and sent three armies by the passes of Khyber, Bolan and Kurum. Sher Ali fled and died soon after, and his son Yakub was recognized as the Amir. The British frontier was advanced to the farther sides of the passes, and it was arranged that a British Resident would reside in Kabul.

Within a few months, however, the Resident, Sir Louis Cavagnari, and his escort were attacked and massacred. A British army was sent again, Yakub Khan abdicated, and Kabul and Kandahar were occupied by the British force. Lord Lytton resigned in 1880.

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### RIPON

The Marquis of Ripon was appointed Viceroy and Governor-General in April, 1880. In *Afghan War.* Afghanistan a British brigade was defeated at Maiwand by the troops of Ayub Khan, but Sir Frederick Roberts immediately marched from Kabul to Kandahar and routed Ayub's army in September, 1880. Abdur Rahman, a nephew of Sher Ali, was now recognized as Amir, and the British forces retired from Kabul and Kandahar.

Lord Ripon's name is dear to the people of India for his benevolent and enlightened efforts to secure their well-being and further their progress. The State of Mysore, which had been under British Administration for over fifty years, was restored to the Indian ruling family in 1881. The Local Self-Government Act, passed by Lord Ripon, is an enlightened effort to entrust to the people themselves the administration of their local affairs, in so far as they are befitting by their education to perform the task. Another benevolent measure, the Bengal

Tenancy Act, was matured during Lord Ripon's administration, and was passed into law by his successor. It had the same object as Lord Canning's Rent Act, and afforded further protection to the cultivators of Bengal against harassment and unjust exactions. Lord Ripon was succeeded by Lord Dufferin in 1884.

### DUFFERIN

The first important act of Lord Dufferin was to receive <sup>Afghanistan and Russia</sup> the Amir of Afghanistan at a great Durbar, which strengthened the friendly relations with that chief. War with Russia seemed imminent for a time, but was averted by Lord Dufferin's great ability and tact.

King Thibaw of Upper Burma was charged with ill-treating <sup>Annexation of Upper Burma.</sup> British subjects, and war was declared. There was no fighting however; the king was dethroned and removed to India, and Upper Burma, as far as the confines of China, was annexed in 1886.

In the same year the fort of Gwalior which had been so long held by the British, was restored to Sindia, <sup>Gwalior restor. ed.</sup> and this act of grace was hailed with gratitude. In the following year the Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen-<sup>Jubilee.</sup> Empress was celebrated throughout India with an outburst of loyalty.

Lord Dufferin was succeeded by Lord Lansdowne in 1888.

### LANSDOWNE

One of the principal events during Lord Lansdowne's viceroyalty was the Manipur War in 1891. The Chief Commissioner of Assam and five other Englishmen having been murdered at Manipur, an expedition was sent against that place. The Raja of Manipur was deposed and the murderers hanged. A minor of a distant branch of the royal family was raised to the throne, and a British Commissioner was appointed to rule the Country during the Raja's non-age. The

same year was passed the Indian Councils Act, by which representatives chosen by such popular bodies, as the Universities and District and Municipal Boards were admitted to the Legislative Councils.

### ELGIN

On the retirement of Lord Lansdowne, in 1893, Lord Elgin, son of the second Viceroy of India, became Viceroy. During his administration, India was visited by a series of misfortunes. In 1896, a Bubonic Plague broke out in Bombay, which has since then spread all over the country. The next year occurred a violent earthquake which caused great loss of life and property. A famine also broke out in a more serious form than was hitherto known in the country. It affected parts of Behar, the United Provinces, and Bombay, but the Central provinces suffered most, and the death rate there was terrible. The peace of the north-western frontier was much disturbed by a number of tribal risings, the chief of which was that of the Afrides. A military expedition was sent into that country to restore order.

The completion of the sixtieth year of Her Majesty the Queen Empress's reign was commemorated by demonstrations of loyalty in India, as in every other part of the British Empire throughout the world.

Lord Elgin having completed his term of office left India in 1899.

### CURZON

Lord Elgin was succeeded by Lord Curzon. Soon after he assumed office, a famine broke out in the Punjab, the Central Provinces, Rajputana, and Bombay. The Government did its best to mitigate the sufferings of the famine-stricken people, but the relief operations were not very successful in Bombay where the death-rate was terribly severe.

The year 1901 was a very sad year for India. It witnessed the passing away of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Empress

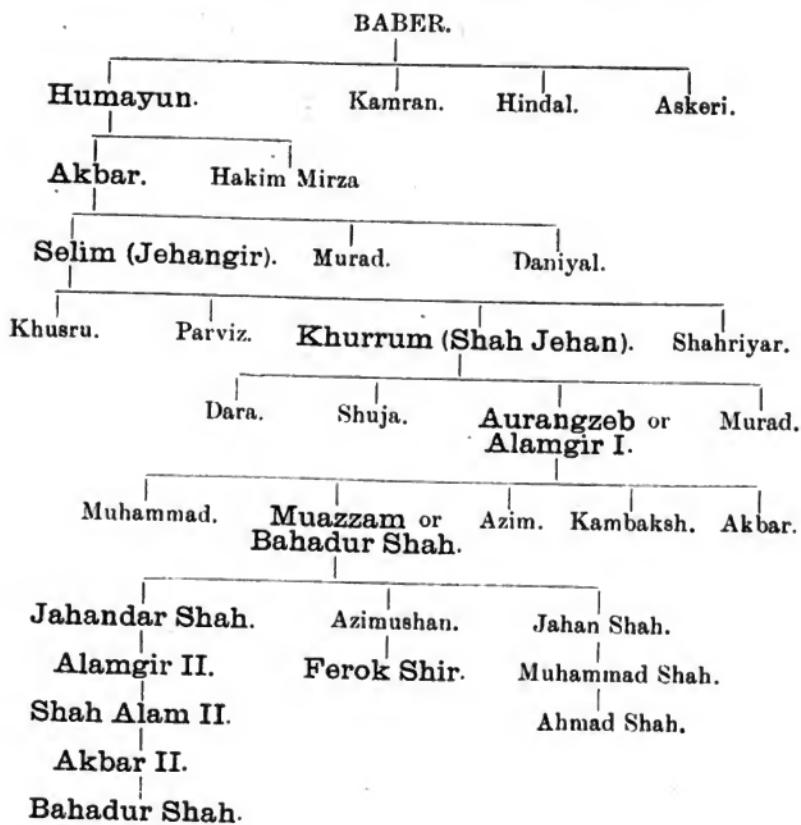
of India after a most glorious reign of 64 years. Her death was mourned in all parts of the civilised world, and the people of India expressed their sincere grief at the loss they had sustained at the death of their beloved Empress. Her eldest son, our present Emperor Edward VII., ascended the throne amidst great rejoicing. His Majesty is the first English King to be crowned as the Emperor of India, and to commemorate this event Lord Curzon held a Durbar at Delhi in January 1903.

Excepting the expedition to Tibet which was undertaken to open up the Tibetan trade to British Indian subjects, the whole of Lord Curzon's administration was taken up with internal measures. To keep the border tribes in the north-western frontier in check Lord Curzon created the North-western Frontier Province and placed it under a Chief Commissioner. The province of Bengal being considered too heavy a charge for one Ruler, he transferred three entire divisions of Bengal to Assam to form the new province of Eastern Bengal and Assam, and placed it under a Lieutenant Governor. In consequence of some difference of opinion with the Secretary of State on the question of the military membership of the Viceregal Council, Lord Curzon resigned in 1905, and was succeeded by Lord Minto, a descendant of the Governor-General who had ruled India a century before.

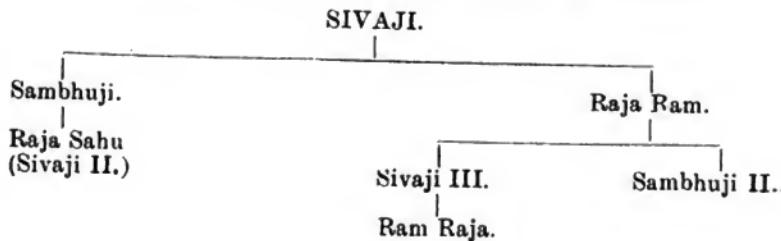


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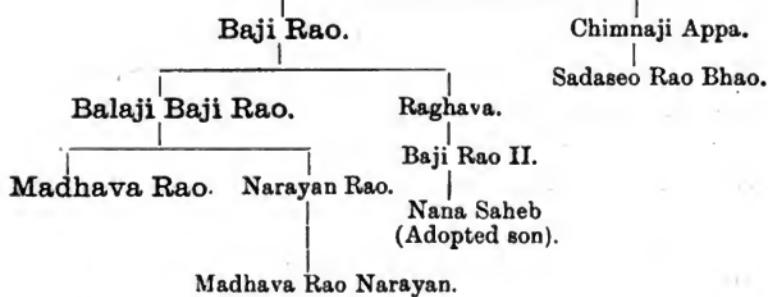


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1. RIGHT HONOURABLE WARREN HASTINGS	...	1774
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12. LORD AUCKLAND	...	1836
13. LORD ELLENBOROUGH	...	1842
14. LORD HARDINGE	...	1844
15. LORD DALHOUSIE	...	1848
16. LORD CANNING,	1ST VICEROY	1856
17. LORD ELGIN,	2ND "	1862
18. LORD LAWRENCE,	3RD "	1864
19. LORD MAYO,	4TH "	1869
20. LORD NORTHBROOK,	5TH "	1872
21. LORD LYTTON,	6TH "	1876
22. LORD RIPON,	7TH "	1880
23. LORD DUFFERIN,	8TH "	1884
24. LORD LANSDOWNE,	9TH "	1888
25. LORD ELGIN,	10TH "	1894
26. LORD CURZON,	11TH "	1899
27. LORD MINTO,	12TH "	1905



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